southern voice

Att'y Patricia Logue said an Ohio ruling denying adoption rights to a lesbian was like 'putting charcoal' in her child's stocking.
Page 10

Web cams are the latest Internet craze and some gay men, like Sean Patrick, will let you look all day long.
Page 37

Please Recycle TAKING PRIDE IN OUR CULTURE DECEMBER 24/1998

gender IDENTITY *disorder*

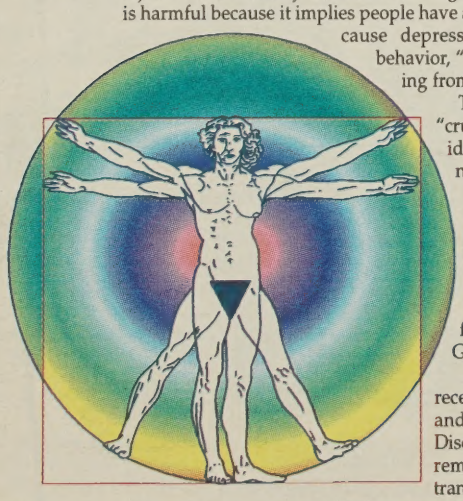
Getting RID of GID

Some transsexuals support the psychiatric diagnosis because it provides access to care, while others argue GID stigmatizes adults and justifies attempts to change 'pre-homosexual' children

by LAURA BROWN

Some transgendered people called it a miracle, others a mixed blessing at best. According to a news article circulated on the Internet last week, the American Psychiatric Association had voted to remove Gender Identity Disorder—the diagnosis given to many transgendered people—from its official list of mental disorders.

"The American Psychiatric Association board voted unanimously Friday to reject Gender Identity Disorder as a diagnosis, saying that the diagnosis itself is harmful because it implies people have a disease and that in and of itself can cause depression, anxiety and self-destructive behavior, " began the article, identified as coming from the Associated Press.



The story, it turned out, was either a "cruel hoax" or a performance art "holiday gift" to the transgender community, depending on your perspective.

Suzan Cooke, a male-to-female transsexual who uses the name TranzGrrlla on her web-site, said she created the story by taking a real Nov. 12 AP story on the APA's condemnation of "reparative therapy" for homosexuals and "substituting GID for homosexuality."

But while GID remains in the most recent addition of the APA's "Diagnostic and Statistic Manual of Mental Disorders" (DSM-IV), the disorder also remains hotly contested within the transgender community, and strongly opposed by some gay and lesbian organizations.

GID opponents warn that the mental disorder diagnosis has been used not only to approve counseling, hormone therapy and sex reassignment surgery for adult transgendered people, but also to label these adults "mentally ill" and to justify "early intervention" for children believed to be "pre-homosexual" or "pre-transgendered."

It's no coincidence, they argue, that the GID diagnosis entered the APA's diagnostic manual in 1980—the first edition after the APA voted to remove

➢ Continued on Page 18

ROBB D. COHEN

Todd Doxtater (left) and Britt Roberts, co-owners of Atlanta Pharmacy & Gifts, say that specialized care will preserve their gay-owned business even while being surrounded by ever-growing mega-chains like CVS.

Taking on the CVS big boys

Local gay-oriented retailers say they can hold their own against giant chains—provided the playing field is level

by DAVID GOLDMAN

The success of many gay-oriented businesses is a prime example of capitalist ingenuity.

The gay liberation movement of the 1970s brought thousands upon thousands of gays together in the nation's cities. These citizens were pursuing (and, at the same time, creating) what society would recognize as "the gay lifestyle." Boldly bursting from the closet, they evidenced a fresh, unashamed interest in all things gay.

But mainstream retailers at first showed little desire to serve this new breed of consumer. When savvy gay and gay-friendly entrepreneurs looked at the nation's flourishing gay communities, they saw vast, affluent and largely underserved markets. In response, these business people opened stores catering specifically to gay and lesbian customers.

At a time when traditional bookstores stocked few (if any) gay and feminist titles, gay and lesbian booksellers devoted entire stores to these topics. When the AIDS epidemic hit the community and people with the disease needed druggists who would dispense medications and alternative treatments in a supportive, non-judgmental environment, specialized pharmacies opened to fill the bill.

These days, gay men and lesbians are widely recognized as a much sought-after category of consumers. No longer is gay money merely tolerated. But this puts some gay businesses in an unusual predicament. Having spent years investing in the community and cultivating gay consumers, they are now fearful that their customers will desert them for large chains—stores that gay retailers say only became interested in gay consumers after community businesses proved there was money to be made there.

Gay retailers say that all they want is a level playing field on which to compete with the big chains. But they're also quick to warn that if the community turns its

➢ Continued on Page 16

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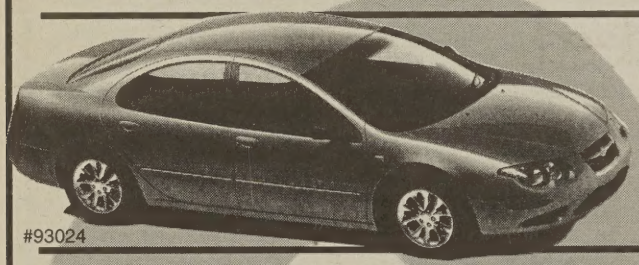

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ORGANIZATIONS

AID Atlanta
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AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta
AIDS Survival Project
AIDS Treatment Initiatives
AIDS Walk Atlanta
Atlanta Barbie Doll Club
Atlanta Executive Network
Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network
Atlanta Lambda Community Center
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THE ARTS

Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus 1998-99 season
Art Fest for Project Open Hand
6th Annual Gay and Lesbian Arts Festival
Art Care for AIDS Survival Project
Oakhurst Arts & Music Festival
The High Museum, "Pop Art" exhibit
Atlanta Ballet's "Spring Fever"
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra with Tommy Tune
Art Station's "Patrick's Theatrics"
"Eula Mae's Beauty, Bait & Tackle"
7 Stages' "Dreamboy"
Actor's Express' "Auntie Mame"
Dad's Garage's "Poor Superman"
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"The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me"
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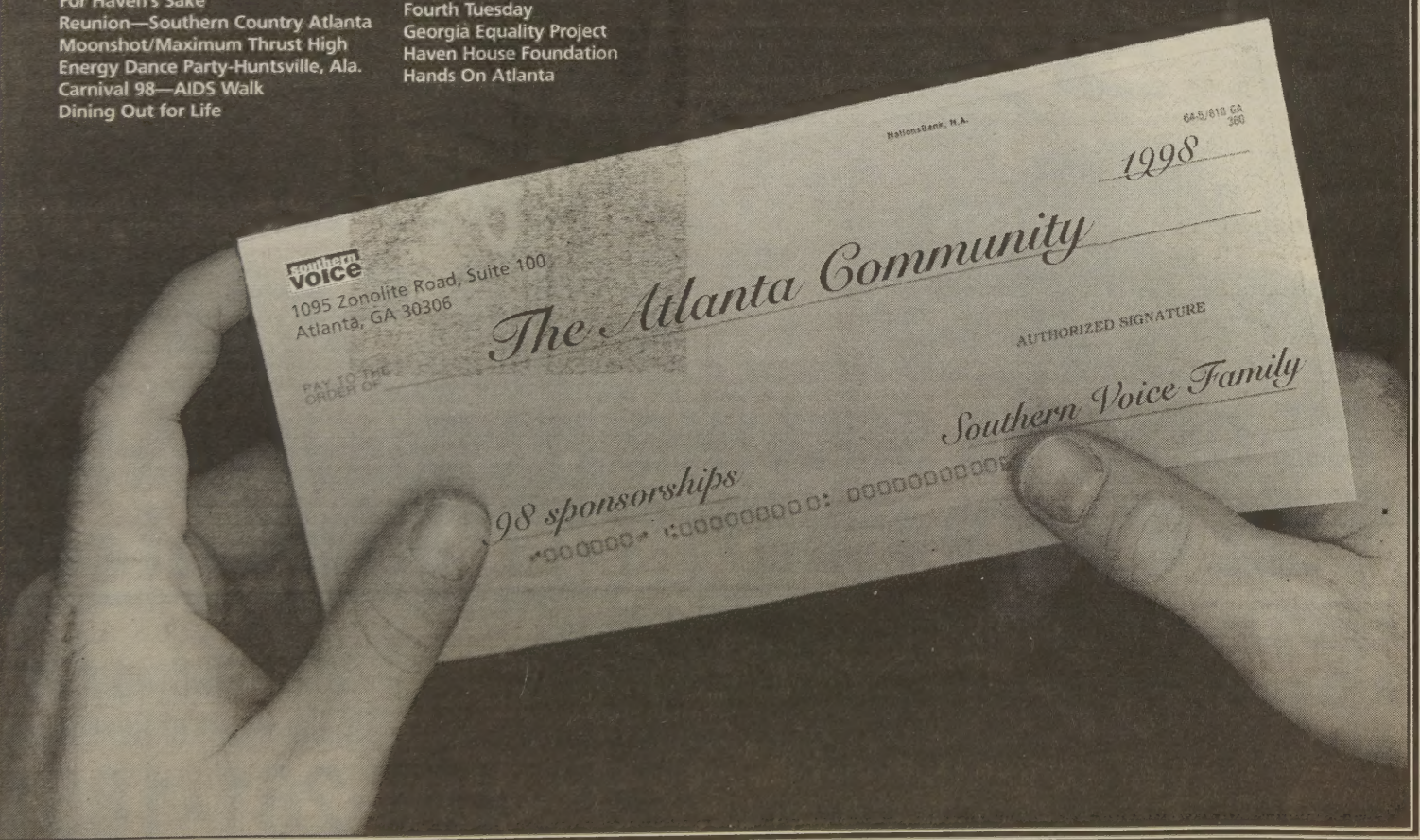

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HRC joins United Airlines boycott

Company's challenge to San Francisco 'equal benefits ordinance' is cited for unusual campaign by gay rights group

by GIP PLASTER

The Human Rights Campaign has joined a San Francisco group boycotting United Airlines because of the company's pending lawsuit and noncompliance with a San Francisco ordinance requiring companies doing business with the city to offer domestic partners of employees the same benefits offered to married spouses.

HRC, the country's largest gay and lesbian political organization, joined a carefully-worded boycott against United, the world's largest air carrier, because the gay rights group "could not think of an alternative approach that would be effective" in changing the airline's policy, HRC executive director Elizabeth Birch said in an interview.

United and the Air Transport Association, an airline trade association that represents all major airlines, have been fighting for two years against the San Francisco equal benefits ordinance that became law last year. It requires companies doing business with the city to give the same benefits to gay or straight domestic partners of employees that are provided married partners.

A number of companies, including major corporations like BankAmerica and Chevron, have complied with the law, but United has not. The carrier said the law creates an economic burden on the company and is not within the scope of the city's power since federal laws should govern airlines. The ATA has complained that local regulations like San Francisco's could create a "patchwork" of irreconcilable local laws, with some cities requiring such benefits while other, more conservative local governments might forbid them.

"For a company of 92,000 people, any change to our agreed benefits is going to take a pretty major upheaval for everybody," United spokesperson Andy Plews said in an interview earlier this year. "We have been resisting really on a point of principle. We can-

➢ Continued on Page 14

GLAAD defends Coors donation

Another boycott target goes on the offensive by donating $110,000 to gay rights group

by GIP PLASTER

TIM WILKERSON

Boycotts have long been a tactic used by some activists attempting to force change in company policies. A California group has been boycotting Colorado-based Coors Brewing Company for more than 20 years, but when the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation accepted more than $100,000 from Coors earlier this year, the boycott became high profile again.

"We make no apology for accepting the money," said Scott Seomin, GLAAD entertainment media director, in an interview.

Morris Kight, the co-founder of the L.A.-based Coors Boycott Committee, has been telling lesbian and gay consumers what not to drink since 1977. His group encourages people to refrain from purchasing Coors, Zima and Keystone, as well as Coors Non-Alcoholic and other products made by the company until the members of the family change their giving habits. Many California gay bars have honored the boycott for years.

While the Coors Brewing Company has an inclusive written non-discrimination policy and full benefits for the domestic partners of its gay employees, it's the giving pattern of the Coors family that has attracted the ire of some gay activists. Because the Coors family owns all the voting stock in the brewery, activists argue that it's fair to criticize the company for the family's donations.

Among the Coors family's financial support for right-wing groups is a $250,000 grant in 1973 to start the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank. The Coors family, along with conservative Paul Weyrich, also created the Committee for the Survival of a Free Press. Later, Weyrich helped engineer the formation of Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority, a right-wing religious group.

The politics of the Coors company and family are so confusing that some right-wing groups, including AIDS-funeral picketer Fred Phelps, also boycott Coors Brewing because the company has had an employment nondiscrimination policy since 1978, long before most companies, and has offered domestic partnership benefits since 1995. The brewer also has a company-recognized gay and lesbian employees group, something many companies do not have.

Seomin said the $110,000 that GLAAD received from Coors was a grant for which it applied to the company.

"The decision to apply for and accept it was not taken lightly," he said.

The grant money is being used to fund an education project about sexuality in the workplace that GLAAD took over from Hollywood Supports, a gay rights organization that no longer exists, he said. The program would have probably folded without the grant, he said.

Seomin contends that many companies are partially good and partially bad in their policies toward gays and lesbians, but that does not mean organizations should not accept money from them.

"Today, there is just so much gray. A purist mentality ignores the power of relationships," he said. GLAAD and Coors can both benefit from the relationship that now exists between the two organizations, he said.

The Coors Boycott Committee plans to meet with GLAAD to express its concerns. Michael Petrelis, a San Francisco activist who is not related to the boycott committee, has also initiated an Internet campaign calling on GLAAD to give back the grant. He also calls on Witeck-Combs Communications, a gay public relations firm, to cancel the consulting contract it recently established with the company.

Urvashi Vaid, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Policy Institute Director, said she considers the acceptance of the money to be an example of a gay rights group "sacrificing principles for short-term gain."

She told the *Village Voice* newspaper that NGLTF had made its own mistakes in accepting corporate donations. An uproar occurred last year after NGLTF accepted a donation from Nike, a company that has been criticized for its labor practices.

"And that was a mistake," Vaid told the newspaper. "I don't think we would do that again."

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ADAP funding may be increased in 1999 budget

Activists hope Gov.-elect Barnes will increase money available for HIV meds program

by LAURA BROWN

Activists say they have high hopes that Georgia's new governor will recommend a significant increase in funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, which provides access to crucial combination therapies for people with HIV/AIDS.

Gov.-elect Roy Barnes will not comment on any specifics of his proposed budget before presenting it to the Georgia General Assembly after his inauguration in January, according to press secretary Gary Horlacher.

"Right now, Gov. Barnes is working his way through the budget. He is reviewing all the requests, and he is not prepared at this time to make specific recommendations," Horlacher said.

But during his campaign for governor, Barnes told the Georgia Equality Project political action committee that he supported increasing ADAP funding. AIDS advocates said they are optimistic he will keep that promise.

"Through a variety of channels, we have definitely captured the governor's attention on this issue, which is a milestone well above where we were this time last year, when [outgoing Gov. Zell Miller] did not feel this was a critical need and did not give any money to the program," said AIDS Survival Project Executive Director Jeff Graham.

ADAP provides "funds of last resort" for people with HIV/AIDS who need access to combination drug therapies, including the protease inhibitors that have been credited with dramatic improvements in many lives.

The Georgia ADAP Task Force, a coalition of organizations facilitated by AIDS Survival Project, has lobbied and written letters to state legislators and the governor explaining the need for increased ADAP funding. Other task force members include the Amethyst Project, AID Atlanta, AIDS Education and Services for Minorities, Outreach and the Georgia Rural Urban Summit.

"Early indications suggest that we have been at least somewhat successful in working with [legislative budget committees] and the governor's office to educate them on the need for this program," Graham said. "I remain hopeful that when we actually see the governor's budget, funding will be at record levels and hopefully above the $2.5 million we started with. ...

"I am hoping I can remain as excited about the new administration four years from now as I am today," he said. "It's a whole new world."

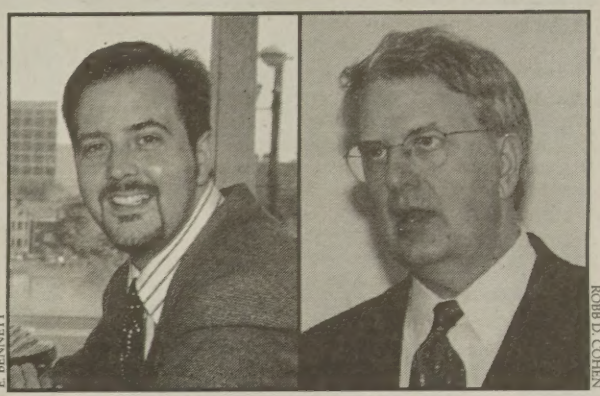
This year, the Georgia Department of Human Resources requested $2.5 million in state funds to supplement federal funding for ADAP, the same amount the agency requested last year. But last year, Gov. Zell Miller did not include any money for ADAP in his proposed budget.

During last year's legislative session, the House Budget Subcommittee on Human Services advocated reinstating the funding, but the House Appropriations Committee ignored their recommendations and opted instead to increase money for county health clinics.

After an intense campaign of lobbying and letter-writing by the ADAP task force, an additional $200,000 was included in the state's supplemental budget for the last quarter of 1998 and for each quarter of 1999—still $1.5 million short of the DHR's original request.

"We did succeed in getting about $1 million in funding, and more importantly, because there was so much community involvement and activism on this last year, we left the session with a fairly well-educated legislature," Graham said. "What we have found is that if we take our mes-

➢ Continued on Page 13



E. BENNETT ROBB D. COHEN

AIDS Survival Project Executive Director Jeff Graham (left) says he's optimistic Gov.-elect Roy Barnes will increase funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

Atlanta activists begin planning for March '99 'action'

'Equality Begins at Home' events slated to project unity among gay groups, alliances with progressive causes

by PAIGE PARVIN

Representatives from the Georgia Equality Project and other community organizations met Dec. 15 to begin serious planning for "Equality Begins at Home," a week of political events planned for March 21-27. The actions in Atlanta will be joined by similar programs in the other 49 state capitals, organized by the Federation of Statewide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Political Groups.

Championed by some gay rights activists as a nationwide alternative to the Millennium March on Washington to be staged in the year 2000 by the Human Rights Campaign and the Metropolitan Community Church, Equality Begins at Home was developed by the Federation to address the need for political advocacy at the state level and to establish a means of communication and support among states, organizers said.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has issued $5,000 to each member organization in the Federation and is organizing activities in each of the eight states with no statewide gay rights group. The goal of the 50-state event is that visible action be taken in every state during the third week in March, raising awareness of gay issues with particular emphasis on creating political change.

Promoting unity among Atlanta gay groups and citizens is a key objective identified by those meeting locally Dec. 15, said Harry Knox, newly-named executive director of GEP. (See accompanying story, this page.)

"Our community faces a number of challenges and opportunities that reflect our diversity," said Knox. "I see this as a chance for organizations to address issues in their own way, but as part of one unified effort."

The project's mission was defined as "to strengthen and unite the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities and promote equality in Georgia on the state and local levels," said Knox.

"Home" was agreed to extend beyond place of residence to mean simply "where we live" or spend most of our time, highlighting the need for awareness and change at the local level.

The initial planning meeting included about two dozen people from a range of gay and lesbian organizations, including the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Parents, Friends & Family of Lesbians and Gays, Straight But Not Narrow, Youth Pride, and the meeting's host, the Atlanta Lambda Center.

➢ Continued on Page 13

ACTION! info

Equality Begins At Home

planning meeting
Saturday, Jan. 9, 10 a.m.
Atlanta Lambda Center
828 West Peachtree St.
404-872-3600

Knox appointed permanent GEP executive director

After serving as interim director for nearly a year, Harry Knox was named Monday the permanent executive director of the Georgia Equality Project Foundation.

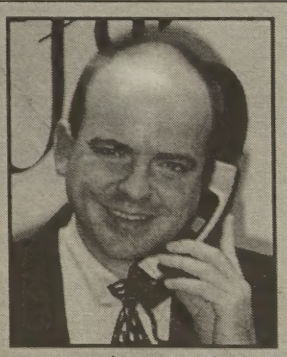
"We have watched Harry work for the past year, and he has brought outstanding leadership to the organization," said GEP board co-chair Judy Wells. "He is a natural leader, consensus builder, and a team player. We felt that there is just nobody better to do the job.

"Part of what's really important is knowing the community, and Harry brings that knowledge to the position."

When Knox was named interim director last March, Wells said, the understanding was that he would serve in that capacity for about a year. Now, as that year draws to a close, the board decided that there was no reason to continue the interim situation.

Wells said the board had planned a national search, but that over time they reached the conclusion that no search was necessary. No steps had been taken to launch such a search.

As Knox assumes the role of executive director, his first projects include preparing for the upcoming legislative session and coordinating Equality Begins at Home, a national gay rights event planned for March. (See accompanying story, this page.)



Harry Knox, from interim director to executive director

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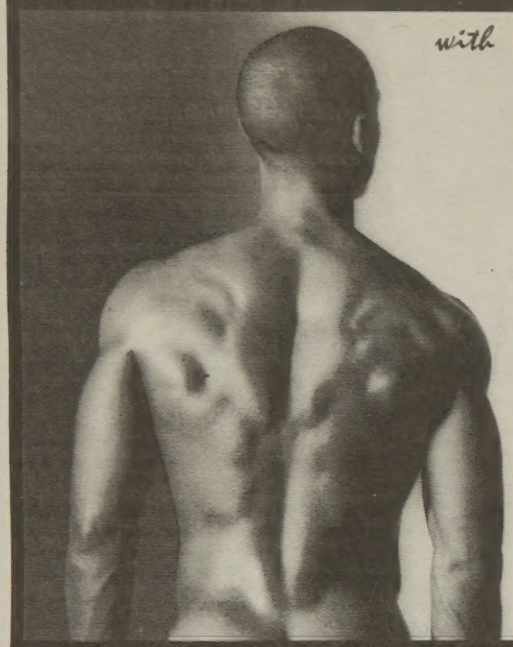
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Around the South

Lesbian Couple Jailed for Violating S.C. Gay Marriage Ban

SUMMERVILLE, S.C.—Two women have been charged with violating South Carolina's law against same sex marriage, the *Charleston Post & Courier* reported Dec. 17. Marsha Vicky Haas, 27, and Susan M. Gilman, 29, were charged with same-sex marriage by the S.C. Law Enforcement Division, after they attempted to obtain a marriage license by misidentifying Gilman's gender. The couple spent a night in jail before being released on personal recognizance bonds.

State probation officials noticed that Gilman, a parolee who had transferred from another state, had identified herself as a man on her driver's license application. South Carolina's Vehicle and License Crime Unit investigated and discovered the marriage. Charleston attorney John Chalmers said that he married the couple in March in his office after they showed him a notarized marriage license from Charleston County. The license lists the groom as Scott Gilman Austin and the bride as Marsha Vicky Haas. Gilman was convicted in September of two counts of having false identification. Haas was charged with fraudulent change of a name on a driver's license.

San Antonio Policeman Slams Gay-Friendly 'Sensitivity Training'

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.—Law enforcement officials are distancing themselves from a fellow officer who criticized a recent training session on homophobia with anti-gay slurs in a police union newsletter. After attending a mandatory one-hour training session on homophobia and same-sex domestic violence, Officer Marc Gallardo wrote a letter laced with anti-gay comments that was published in the December issue of the *Centurion*, the official publication of the San Antonio Police Officer's Association. He criticized the class as "worthless," an attack on Christians and a push to influence police with "the homosexual agenda" and an "immoral lifestyle."

San Antonio Police Chief Al Philippus

The class on gay issues was included in the city's annual training of its police force for the first time this year. Activists have urged police Chief Al Philippus to address complaints that some officers target patrons of gay bars for drunken driving, fail to report hate crimes, and poorly investigate same-sex domestic violence, said Rob Blanchard, a political caucus member and vice president of the San Antonio chapter of Log Cabin Republicans. "We ought to use this as an opportunity to raise a larger community issue," Blanchard said.

Okla. Man Arrested for Murdering Man Who Trashed Gay Guest

BARTLESVILLE, Okla.—A man who made derogatory comments about having gay men in the home of his former girlfriend was killed in a fight that ensued from his remarks, the *Tulsa World* reported on Dec. 16. Mitchell Ray Teehee died Oct. 19 following a stabbing that evolved from a fight at the apartment of LaWanda Clem, his former girlfriend and mother of his young son. Special Judge Myrna Lansdown ordered that Jeffrey Shawn Crouch, 19, of Norman, stand trial on charges of first-degree murder, the newspaper reported.

Witness Kevin Wadsworth, who is gay, testified that he was afraid of Teehee, whom he had just met that evening at Clem's apartment. "LaWanda had told me on several occasions before that if Mitch ever caught me around his son that he would hurt me, so I was very intimidated," Wadsworth testified. After Teehee arrived and made "derogatory" anti-gay remarks directed at Wadsworth, Teehee started shouting that he didn't want anyone to hurt his son, who was asleep in the next bedroom. The fight escalated from there, until Crouch, who had been cleaning his fingernails with a knife, jumped up from his chair after Teehee threatened to drag him out of it. "I can't believe I stabbed you," Crouch reportedly said after the knifing occurred. After an intensive manhunt, Crouch was arrested the morning after the stabbing.

Second Tex. Bill Banning Gay Adoptive, Foster Parents Filed

AUSTIN, Tex.—A second bill barring gays and lesbians from serving as foster or adoptive parents of children under state supervision was filed Dec. 13, the *Dallas Voice* reported. The bill, sponsored by Republican State Rep. Robert E. Talton is even more aggressive than a bill filed Dec. 7 by GOP Rep. Warren Chisum, which required that state official investigate potential foster parents to determine whether they are gay. Under Talton's bill, state officials would investigate existing foster parents and remove children from the homes of foster parents found to be gay, lesbian or bisexual. The implications of Talton's measure are "huge," according to Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. "It's just the most profound violation to take children from their homes," she said.

Texas State Rep. Robert E. Talton

—From staff and wire reports

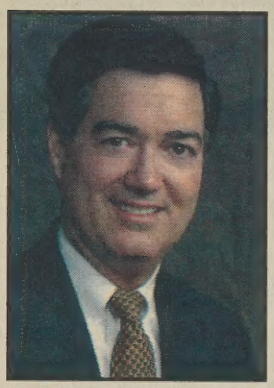
Around the Nation

Two Teens Charged with Hate Crime in Beating of Transvestite

PROVIDENCE, R.I.—Two teenagers were charged Dec. 18 with a hate crime in the Nov. 26 assault of a transvestite leaving a gay bar in Providence. Police say David E. Sheldon, 19, of East Providence and Taylor Grenier, 18, of Warren initiated the attack by yelling anti-gay slurs at Diana Obidowski, *The Providence Journal* reported in its Saturday editions. Obidowski was not dressed as a woman on the night of the attack. Police report that when the two teens saw Obidowski, they got out of their car, ran to him, knocked him down and kicked him in the head and ribs. Obidowski, a 44-year-old Air Force veteran, was treated at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Providence. The teens accused in the beating face simple assault charges in District Court under the state Hate Crimes Sentencing Act. The law, passed by the state legislature in July, requires offenders to receive sentences of at least 30 days in jail.

Colo. Gay Marriage Ban Gains Momentum, Anti-Gay Effort Loses

DENVER—Emboldened by the election of Republican Bill Owens as governor, conservative GOP lawmakers said Dec. 14 that they will seek to enact a same-sex marriage ban next year. Republican State Sen. Ken Arnold said he expects a bill barring gays and lesbians from state-sanctioned marriage to be introduced during the legislative session that begins next month. "I think it's very important that we get something on the books that we don't agree with same-sex marriage," said Arnold. "Let's get away from this dirty gray area, and let's make it black and let's make it white as far as our morals are concerned." Arnold said previous attempts to pass bills banning marriages between gays and lesbians were vetoed by Democratic Gov. Roy Romer, but Owens has said he would sign such a bill.

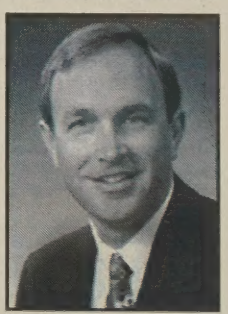


Colo. Gov.-elect Bill Owens has said that, unlike his predecessor, he won't veto a gay marriage ban.

Meanwhile, in conservative Colorado Springs, Colorado for Family Values failed to get enough signatures in its petition to change a city resolution that the group believes protects gays and lesbians from discrimination. At a Dec. 14 news conference, executive director Paul Jessen said the initiative gathered 10,302 signatures, 783 short of the amount needed to get on the April municipal election ballot. The city resolution declares zero tolerance for "discrimination of a racial, ethnic, sexual or religious nature." Colorado for Family Values proposed its own ordinance defining the word "sexual" to refer only to gender, and not to sexual orientation.

Referendum Threatened Over Ohio City's DP Benefits Decision

COLUMBUS, Ohio—A decision by the Columbus, Ohio, city council to offer health benefits to the unmarried, live-in partners of city workers is being met with talk of a referendum from a potential mayoral candidate, the *Columbus Dispatch* reported on Dec. 17. State Sen. Bruce E. Johnson (R-Columbus), said he is gauging support for and investigating the legality of overturning the ordinance, which provides unmarried heterosexual and homosexual couples the same health benefits as those given to the spouses of city workers. Benefits for live-in companions are expected to cost an additional $550,000 next year. Democratic City Councilman Matt Habash, who championed the health-insurance issue, accused Johnson of playing politics. "This was a bipartisan effort, and it took a lot of courage for Jennette [Bradley, Republican city councilwoman] and the mayor to stand up on this," Habash said.



Councilman Matt Habash pushed DP benefits.

Two Plead Guilty in Beating Death of Boston Gay Hustler

BOSTON—Two friends accused of beating a Boston man to death pleaded guilty to manslaughter after one turned on the other and agreed to testify against him if the case went to trial, reported the *Boston Herald* on Dec. 15. Just as his murder trial was scheduled to begin, William Dalrymple, 23, admitted his role in the killing of Lee Thompson, 35, on Feb. 23, 1997. He changed his plea after learning his friend Brian Savage, 20, had offered to testify against him in exchange for a lighter sentence. Dalrymple was expected to receive a sentence of about 15 years, while Savage will receive an 8- to 10-year term, according to Suffolk County officials. The third man charged in the case, William Jenner, 22, pleaded guilty last week. The three men, accused of kicking and punching Thompson to death, were scheduled to go to trial last week. The men's defense started to crumble after Dalrymple's girlfriend Tara Toomey dropped plans to marry him and was therefore forced to testify against him.

—From staff and wire reports

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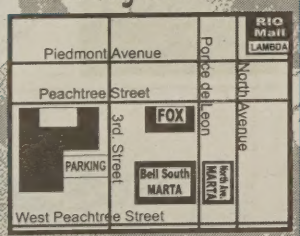

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Ohio appeals court rules against lesbian second-parent adoption

CANTON, Ohio—Only the biological mother of an 8-year-old girl raised by the woman and her lesbian partner can be the girl's mother, an appellate court ruled Dec. 16.

The two women both wanted to be legal parents of the girl, who was conceived by artificial insemination. The couple, identified in court documents by pseudonyms, filed a request in Summit County Common Pleas Court in 1996 to allow the biological mother's partner to adopt the girl.

The court turned down the request, saying the Ohio Adoption Act would require the biological mother to give up her status as a parent before the other woman could adopt.

Last Wednesday, a three-judge panel of the Ohio 5th District Court of Appeals agreed with the lower court's ruling.

"Although we are mindful of the dilemma facing the parties and are sympathetic to their plight, it is not within the constitutional scope of judicial power to change the face and effect of the plain meaning" of the Ohio Adoption Act, the court wrote in its unanimous ruling.

"Of course we're disappointed. The court focused on the parents instead of the child," said Patricia Logue, managing attorney for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund's Midwest regional office, who argued the mothers' case before the appeals court.

Logue said she needed to talk to the couple—identified in court papers as "Trish Smith" and "Marcia Jones"—before deciding whether to take further legal action, including appealing to the Ohio Supreme Court. Marcia is the biological mother of the daughter, called "Jane Doe," but both women have parented her since birth.

"This decision puts charcoal in Jane's stocking," Logue said. "Adoption is supposed to be about what's best for the children. It's disappointing the court focused on narrow legal questions rather than on providing Jane with the security that other children take for granted—like the right of both mothers to make medical decisions for her."

Attorney Patricia Logue compared the decision against the lesbian moms to 'putting charcoal' in their child's Christmas stocking.

Logue had argued that the adoption request should be treated as a step-parent adoption. She said such adoptions allow a person to adopt the biological or adoptive children of his or her partner without ending the first parent's legal status.

Such adoptions are available to heterosexual step-parents, and in an increasing number of states, to homosexual and other unwed couples as well. But no state offers same-sex marriage or the type of legal recognition to gay relationships that would make gay partners automatically step-parents, the way marriage laws do for heterosexual couples.

—From staff and wire reports

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Maryland high court upholds gay couple's visitation rights

ANNAPOLIS, Md.—The highest court in Maryland ruled Dec. 18 that children's visitation with their parents cannot be restricted solely on the basis of a parent's sexual orientation, unless there is proof of harm to the child's well-being.

The ruling came in the case of two young children who had been prohibited from visiting their gay father when his male partner is present.

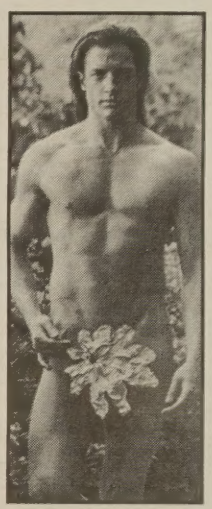
The Court of Appeals upheld a ruling of the Court of Special Appeals, which said there was no evidence that the girl and boy, ages 10 and 7 respectively, were harmed by Robert Boswell's sexual orientation or the presence of his live-in partner.

The children have been visiting their father without restrictions since the Court of Special Appeals in October 1997 overturned a 1996 ruling by Anne Arundel Circuit Judge Lawrence Rushworth.

➢ Continued on Page 17

"Quote unquote"

compiled by REX WOCKNER and STAFF REPORTS



"I think the people who manage Brendan got a little nervous about the nudity. It's painful to say, but I think he was right. It's such an important moment in the movie, and there's no way you wouldn't be distracted, looking at this movie star's genitals."

—Writer-director Bill Condon, who is gay, to showbizdata.com about the refusal by actor Brendan Fraser (right) to do a scene with full-frontal nudity in "Gods & Monsters," which was in production at the same time Fraser's Disney movie "George of the Jungle" became a hit.

Georgia: You owe me big time for that.
Ally: Oh, I don't know about that, Georgia. What was with the tongue?
Georgia: I didn't give you tongue.
Ally: I felt it.
Georgia: Oh, you wish!
Ally: I got a little flitter!

—Dialogue on TV's 'Ally McBeal' Nov. 23 after Ally and Georgia staged a passionate kiss to dissuade a man who was pursuing Ally.

"We went to the [ABC] network and we tried to do a spinoff gay show—remember?—where you guys were the gay couple. And you lived next door to RuPaul whose lover was going to be Don Rickles. Remember? And the network would not take it but then three years later they got 'Ellen.' ... They said they couldn't have any homosexual characters on TV other than supporting players in a show."

—Roseanne (left) during the recent reunion on her talk show of the cast from her sitcom.

"I was recently invited to the 50th birthday party of a gay friend, organized as a surprise by one of his own gay friends. They all looked terrifically relaxed, poised and socially at ease. We straights felt like members of an Albanian choir, touring the British provinces and being given hospitality after the concert. Everyone was terrifically kind and welcoming, though it soon became clear they had nothing really to say to us, and were quite happy for us to grab a plate of food, and talk among ourselves in our own language."

—Columnist Simon Hoggart in London's *The Guardian*, Dec. 5.

"I ... don't like the rise of the Christian Coalition anti-everybody movement. They'd like to get rid of us all, frankly, and that's very scary. And I think we have to confront this wherever it occurs and do whatever we can. This terrible murder of this boy in Wyoming is a horrifying testimony to what goes on in the name of morality. It's total bullshit."

—Singer Judy Collins (right) to the Phoenix gay newspaper *Heatstroke*, Dec. 3.

"He didn't like the fact that I was out of the closet in medical school. He worried about what effect being so open would have on my success in life. I had to tell him that I couldn't not be out. The nicest thing about him is, he's so supportive and easy to educate, and he eventually saw things my way."

—Seattle doctor Peter Shalit, on his dad, film critic Gene Shalit, to the *Advocate*, Dec. 22.

"What's the point of being alive if you're not silly? Life is too important to be serious. I have this theory that seriousness is the refuge of the shallow. I absolutely believe it with all my heart."

—Lesbian novelist Rita Mae Brown to the Associated Press, Dec. 12.

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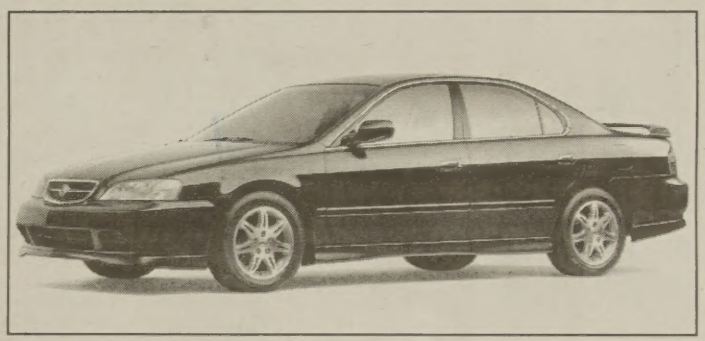

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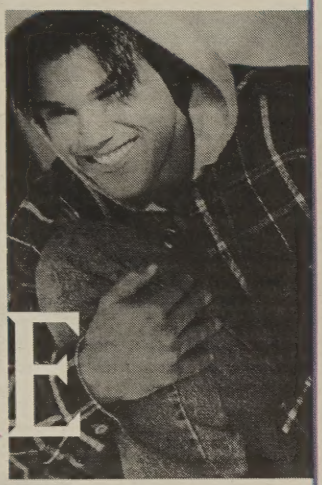

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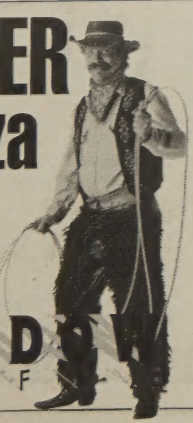

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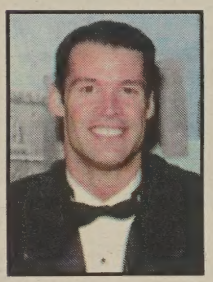
Around the World

Gay Male Couple Offered Civil Marriage Benefits in Colombia

BOGATA, Columbia—Two gay men entered into a legally sanctioned union with each other Dec. 11 at Notary Office Number 46 in Bogota, Colombia—the same location where heterosexual marriages take place. Luis Antonio Arias Bolivar and Isauro Rincon Angarita signed a joint-ownership-of-property contract affirming that they are homosexuals, love each other, and desired economic union. The document was created by gay lawyer and activist German Humberto Rincon. The men, one wearing a black tuxedo and one a beige tuxedo, sat in captain's chairs across from Notary Judge Rosa Falla Laiseca as she read the contract. Twenty guests—friends and family members—stood nearby. "This is certainly going to be a precedent," said correspondent David Olson. "There are many other couples who want to do the same thing but nobody wanted to be first."

Former Gold-Medal Winner Claims Dumped Because He's Gay

TORONTO—Canadian Olympic gold-medal swimmer Mark Tewksbury came out of the closet Dec. 15 in an appearance at Toronto's Buddies in Bad Times Theatre and in media interviews. He made the decision after losing a six-figure contract as a motivational speaker for an unnamed financial institution that Tewksbury claims had complained he already was "too openly gay."



Gold-medal swimmer Mark Tewksbury is the second Canadian Olympian in a month to come out.

"This corporate catalyst... made me realize it's time to share my whole story, which is still motivating and still exciting," Tewksbury said. "I'm coming screaming out of the closet—I'm a great, screaming queen and I'm glad to be that way." Tewksbury, whose swimming specialty is the backstroke, won three Olympic medals and set seven world records. Members of the gay community in Toronto urged Tewksbury, a member of the country's Sports Hall of Fame, to identify the financial institution so people can make their own voices heard by boycotting the company. Tewksbury also called on the city of Calgary to officially proclaim a gay pride week. Mayor Al Duerr has refused to proclaim a gay pride week because of the potential backlash and the furor that erupted during previous attempts to sanction one.

WCC Vows to Instill Accountability; Banana May Be Pardoned

HARARE, Zimbabwe—The World Council of Churches wound up its second assembly this decade Dec. 14 by endorsing a "study of human sexuality, in all of its diversity," over the objection of a Russian Orthodox representative, who warned that "improper work" on homosexuality would risk the loss of additional Orthodox churches from the council's membership.

Meanwhile, fugitive Canaan Banana, former president of Zimbabwe, which hosted the WCC conference, was placed under house arrest Dec. 14 after surrendering to police. The former president was convicted Nov. 26 on sodomy and homosexual assault charges, after he had fled the country. "I left... because I was in possession of dangerous information, so I had to share it with my real friends," the 63-year-old Banana said without elaborating. The Harare High Court set Dec. 23 for sentencing on 11 gay sex charges. On Dec. 13, South African President Nelson Mandela, thought to be an ally of Banana, was said to have reached a "common position" with Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe on Banana. That agreement may have involved returning Banana to Zimbabwe as part of a deal for a light sentence or even a pardon.

Former Zimbabwe Pres. Canaan Banana

Court Strikes Down Gay Book Ban in British Columbia Schools

VANCOUVER, Canada—The Supreme Court of British Columbia ruled Dec. 16 that the school board of the Vancouver suburb of Surrey erred in banning books about gay relationships from kindergarten and first-grade classrooms. The court ordered the board to re-evaluate the books "Asha's Mums," "One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dads, Blue Dads" and "Belinda's Bouquet" without taking into account the sexual orientation of the characters or the religious convictions of board members. "It's the first time in Canada a court has been asked to rule on whether a school board could exclude from the curriculum... books which have content depicting same-sex families," said lawyer Joe Arvay, who represented two gay teachers who filed suit against the ban. "The court said, 'No, they can't.'" B.C. Education Minister Paul Ramsey was pleased with the ruling. "The court's action sends a very positive signal to those in Surrey and throughout the province who want schools to be inclusive and tolerant places for all our children," he told the *Vancouver Sun*.

—From staff and wire reports

ADAP funding may be increased in 1999 budget

➢ Continued from Page 7

sage to them, they will listen, although certainly they will not always agree with us."

ADAP currently provides medications for about 1,400 people, while another 1,225 remain on the waiting list, Graham said. The ADAP task forces now estimates it would take $10 million to expand the program to include all those currently on the list. "There is still a very legitimate ... need in Georgia and we can't risk falling further behind," Graham said.

The ADAP program can provide access to the drugs for those who do not have private insurance coverage and who are not eligible for public insurance through Medicaid, which has strict income restrictions and requires that the recipient have already been diagnosed with full-blown AIDS.

ADAP can also provide drugs for people with HIV/AIDS who experience renewed health due to so-called "cocktail" treatment and want to go back to work, but who are facing a gap between when their disability insurance coverage ends and when their new employer's health benefits would begin.

The state of Georgia should fund ADAP for both ethical and financial reasons, Graham said.

"If we know that we can keep a person healthy and help them have a higher quality of life, we have an ethical responsibility to do that," he said. "Way too many of us have been fighting the battle against HIV for way too long to be stopped by economics. We finally have hope, and then all of a sudden, the hope is torn from some people's hands because they just don't have the private resources to get these medications."

Funding ADAP now also means saving money later, Graham argued, pointing out that "the trick is these are cost savings that don't happen today. They happen a year or so down the road, and the trick is in convincing people to invest wisely now to save money in the future."

According to the ADAP task force, the annual cost for inpatient hospitalization for a person with AIDS tops $100,000, while "the annual cost of combination therapy under ADAP, which prevent hospitalization, averages $9,200 per year."

Fill the 'med' gap, says Clinton

President Clinton told members of his HIV/AIDS Advisory Council in a meeting Dec. 18 that he supports filling the "gap" facing those disabled by the virus but who become able to return to work, only to risk losing Medicaid funding for the very medications that have led to their recovery.

"I just started an initiative not very long ago to try and have people who have disabilities, including some people with HIV and AIDS when they get better—if you have disabilities and you go back to work, it used to be automatically you lose your Medicaid," Clinton said in response to concerns raised by Tom Henderson, a member of his advisory council.

"And now more and more people are working in small businesses where they don't have employer-based health insurance or they have small pools and they can't afford to take somebody with a preexisting conditions.

"So we're trying to modify the rules so that when people are on disability, then they get off of it and they go back into the work force, they can keep their Medicaid for some period of time. And I want to go back and see exactly how we did that and what else we can do here."

Even additional federal funding will not solve the problem, Clinton said, because the issue is symptomatic of broader health care pressures.

"These coverage problems have gotten quite profound, and as a consequence, with fewer and fewer people getting medical coverage at work, what you've got is more and more people trying to find a way to get into Medicaid," he said.

President Clinton said additional federal funding will not solve the problem because the issue is symptomatic of broader health care pressures.

—*From staff reports*

Atlanta activists begin planning for March '99 'action'

➢ Continued from Page 7

Although no plans were formalized, there will likely be a kick-off rally to generate visibility, followed by a series of events to be driven by various gay and lesbian groups, said Knox. While the focus will be political, cultural and social events will be planned as well.

Recent high school graduate Noah Saunders, whose years of anti-gay abuse in a Cobb County high school were the subject of a recent *Southern Voice* profile, will work with Youth Pride to present an exhibition of a sculpture inspired by the death of Matthew Shepard, the gay college student brutally murdered in Wyoming. Saunders said he hopes to promote a "zero tolerance" policy against harassment of gay teens, currently in place in some area schools but not enforced.

Other possibilities include a hands-around-the-capitol rally, a visit to elected state representatives during the legislative session, and voter registration held at a drag show.

Organizers agreed that a few segments of the community should be ensured a place in the planning process, including allies of the gay rights movement, people of color, and Georgia's rural community. College and university campuses and the business community were also targeted to get involved.

Larry Pellegrini, a former GEP lobbyist and a founding member of the Federation, said he feels strongly about the all-inclusive nature of Equality Begins at Home.

"There will something that appeals to everyone during that week," said Pellegrini, now public policy director of the Georgia Rural-Urban Summit, a progressive civil rights organization.

While Equality Begins at Home is focused on gay and lesbian rights, Lynn Cothren, a member of the board of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, sees the program as an opportunity to promote equality across minority groups.

"We are all affected by issues like welfare reform, the threat of breast cancer, and youth harassment, and we need to find ourselves on the right side of these issues," said Cothren, who is an assistant to Coretta Scott King, widow of the slain civil rights hero. "This is a chance for all of us, including our straight allies, to go to the well and re-commit to the movement for equality."

The next planning meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 9, at 10 a.m. at the Lambda Center.

HRC joins United Airlines boycott

➢ Continued from Page 5

not have policies dictated by local authorities. We have always contended that airlines should be federally governed."

A federal judge ruled in April that only federal law may govern the provision of health insurance benefits , relieving airlines from the obligation of providing domestic partner benefits. In October, the same judge also said United did not have to provide non-health benefits, including bereavement leave, until a full hearing could be held in January. The call for a boycott was specifically prompted by these recent efforts by United to avoid providing equal bereavement leave.

"The way in which United is handling the San Francisco ordinance lacks dignity and lacks fairness for their gay and lesbian employees," Birch said. "Of the hundreds of companies that I've seen grapple with this issue, they are doing it the least humanely."

Birch said the company should have agreed to follow the ordinance, grant domestic partner and related benefits to all its employees, then argue jurisdictional issues in court. She said all companies should be offering the benefits regardless of whether laws require them. She characterized United's tactics to avoid offering benefits as "cowardly."

"No matter what principle they want to test in court, they need to examine their policies," Birch said.

"They're putting their employees in cramped seats in the back of the plane and telling them they're in first class," added Wayne Besen, an HRC spokesperson.

United has also been criticized for failing to live up to a promise that San Francisco officials say the airline made to avoid an impasse soon after the ordinance was passed. They say United promised, in exchange for no immediate action to enforce the ordinance, that the airline would adopt DP benefits within a year. United has claimed that it promised only to study the issue, but no study has been forthcoming.

United Airlines' public relations firm within the gay community has been Window Communications, a Washinton-based company that is separate but related to Window Media, which owns *Southern Voice*.

"By mutual agreement, Window Communications is in the process of ending its work with United," said William Waybourn, Window Communications' president. "While we're proud of the progress we were able to make, we obviously regret the airline's lack of movement on the issue of domestic partner benefits."

United with Pat Robertson?

In calling the boycott, an HRC press release linked United and the American Center for Law and Justice, an organization created by television religious commentator Pat Robertson.

"If there was any doubt as to where United stood in gay and lesbian equality, this was clarified when they elected to form a partnership with one of the most rabid anti-gay organizations in America," Birch said in the release. "In essence, United has joined forces with Pat Robertson to promote the unfair treatment of gay Americans."

United, in a statement in response to the boycott, characterized the attempts to link them with ACLJ as "misleading." United stated that the case involving United and the ATA was filed several months before an ACLJ lawsuit challenging the San Francisco ordinance and is being heard before the same judge because court rules require it.

"Neither United Airlines nor the ATA was involved in any aspect of the [ACLJ] suit, or in any effort to consolidate or relate the cases," the statement said. "[The ATA case] has been largely decided in favor of the airlines by Judge Claudia Wilkin. The issues in the [ACLJ] suit, however, have yet to be heard by the court."

ATA, which represents 22 airlines, also spoke out against the boycott. No major airline offers DP benefits, though United and American airlines include sexual orientation in their written non-discrimination policies.

"The airlines' position in this matter has always been to protect their rights to conduct business according to federal law and avoid a patchwork quilt of inconsistent local regulation of what is fundamentally an inter-state industry," the statement said.

"The airlines maintain that the appropriate forum for addressing the domestic partners benefits issue is in discussions and negotiations between individual companies and their employees."

Birch said she could not provide any evidence that United and the ACLJ had been working together, but said the airline should be alarmed to find itself fighting on the same side of the issue as Pat Robertson.

"That doesn't even prompt them to take a deep look into their internal actions," Birch said.

"There is clearly a parallel here. They're both on the same side for slightly different reasons," Besen said.

A limited boycott

Calls for a boycott leave room for discretion by even boycotting consumers who want to fly on United. Birch said the wording was issued by Equal Benefits Advocates, the San Francisco group that originally called for the boycott. The group is composed of the three people who "conceived, drafted and lobbied through the equal benefits ordinance," according to Jeff Shehee, one of the members.

The boycott says that "where customers have a choice (and choice may be driven by price, use of frequent flyer points or availability of other flights), customers should try to fly another airline." It states that if a choice does not exist, "Equal Benefits Advocates requests the customer take the opportunity to educate United and the public by wearing a button or sticker expressing their support of the boycott." If United withdraws its lawsuit, the boycott will end, according to the wording established by the group.

Despite the criticism over United's benefits policies, the airline does donate money and services to a number of gay and lesbian causes and groups, including the International Gay Rodeo Association and the Atlanta Executive Network. The boycott does not offer instructions or advice to these organizations that now find themselves accepting money from a company that another gay organization is boycotting.

"We applaud them for when they have supported our community," Besen said. "However, we want parity, not parties."

"I think each group has to make its own decision," Birch said. "We would not begin to instruct another gay group."

While Birch did not make a recommendation about whether other groups should refuse money from United, she did call on other groups to consider joining the original boycott by Equal Benefits Advocates.

"They should get information from the San Francisco group and make a decision if they want to support their efforts as we did," Birch said.

Birch noted that HRC has never accepted money from United, nor does it accept money from many other controversial companies. She said HRC has never received funding from alcohol or tobacco companies either.

United with Pride, the non-profit gay and lesbian employees group at United, did not take a position regarding the boycott.

"United with Pride neither supports nor does not support the boycott. Our position is to take neither side," said Executive Director Nick Morse.

Morse said he "questions the benefit of a boycott" and believes education of employees and the management at United is needed. He said that in his experience, change will happen from inside the organization, not because of an external cause.

"The employees here need education more than pushing," he said.

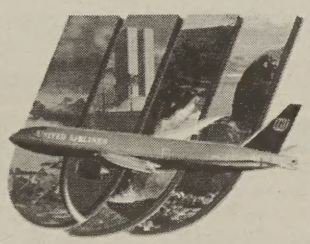
Morse and other members of the gay employee group met Dec. 8 with United's newly appointed president and chief operating officer, James Goodwin, to discuss the equal benefits issue.

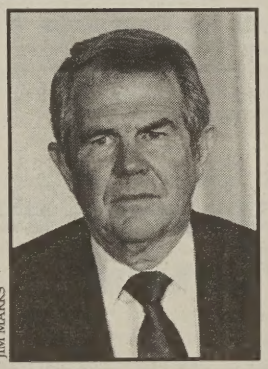
"I am confident that this was the first in a number of steps to work hand-in-hand towards giving employees the attention they deserve," said Morse. "I look forward to working with United's new leadership now and throughout the future on aspects such as this which affect employee life in the airline and throughout the community."

"United recognizes the need to continually review our compensation and benefit structure to more effectively represent employee interests." Goodwin said in a press statement released by United with Pride. "I look forward to working with United With Pride and other employee-oriented organizations to determine their interests."

MATT HENNIE

HRC's Elizabeth Birch, boycott advocate





JIM MARKS

Pat Robertson, strange bedfellow

ACTION!info

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Chicago, IL 60666
call: 847-700-4000
www.ual.com

Human Rights Campaign
919 18th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
call: 202-628-4160
fax: 202-347-5323
e-mail: hrc@hrc.org
www.hrc.org

Health News

President Scolded for Not Pushing on AIDS Vaccine Goal

WASHINGTON—President Clinton has not done enough to follow up his plan to develop an AIDS vaccine within 10 years, his AIDS advisory council charged Dec. 19. Clinton warned that the fiscal year 2000 budget will be tight, but he endorsed the council's proposal for a national media campaign to promote voluntary testing for HIV. "It has been 19 months to the day since your announcement of the vaccine goal and a director of the vaccine center at NIH has not yet been appointed," Helen Miramontes, a member of the president's HIV/AIDS advisory council, told Clinton in a meeting in the Cabinet Room. Miramontes, a University of Calif. professor whose son is HIV-positive, said just one preliminary vaccine meeting has been convened at the National Institutes of Health since Clinton set the 10-year vaccine goal.

Helen Miramontes, whose son has HIV, complained to President Clinton about the slow pace of vaccine development.

The council requested additional AIDS research and treatment funds in his fiscal 2000 budget, particularly for an initiative targeting minority populations. "This budget year will be more difficult than the last one because we got such big increases in everything last time and because of the global economy kind of slowing down," Clinton responded. "But we'll do the best we can."

Protein Treatment May Jump-Start Immune System

TUCSON, Ariz.—Two researchers at the University of Arizona have developed a new HIV treatment aimed at bolstering patients' immune systems, rather than trying to kill the virus that causes AIDS. "We're not trying to kill the virus. We're trying to reduce the immune damage it does," said Ronald Watson, a research professor at the Arizona Prevention Center. The therapy involves treating HIV-positive patients with a protein fragment called a receptor peptide, found in human T-cells—key players in immune defense. Repeated studies with more than 600 mice have shown the peptide helped animals infected with "mice-HIV" fight off the opportunistic infections that typically rage unchecked in infected animals. San Mateo, Calif.-based Allergene plans to begin clinical trials of the peptide with HIV-positive patients by late next year, said Bill Friedman, Allergene chairman and chief executive. The effect of boosted immune capacity lasts in mice for at least six months, a significant time in the life span of a mouse.

Advisory Panel Votes to Remove Saccharin from Cancer List

NEW YORK—A government advisory panel has recommended removing saccharin from an official list of cancer-causing substances, the *New York Times* reported Dec. 12. The executive committee of the National Toxicology Program voted to remove the artificial sweetener from the list of known or suspected carcinogens, the *Times* said. The action followed votes by three other advisory groups asked to evaluate saccharin studies on people and animals. Two committees of government scientists had recommended that the substance be removed from the upcoming ninth edition of the Report on Carcinogens. But a third panel of nongovernment researchers meeting in October 1997 voted to keep saccharin on the list. The decision by the executive committee will be considered by program director Kenneth Olden, who will then pass on his recommendation next year to U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, and later to Congress.

FDA Approves Abacavir But Warns of Possible Side Effects

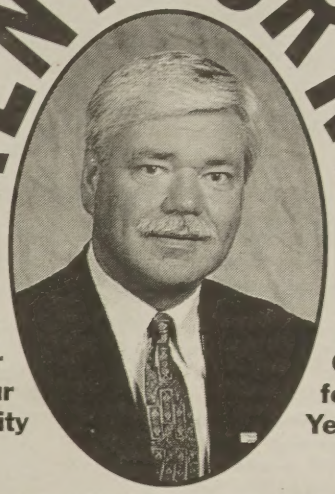
WASHINGTON—The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved a new AIDS drug but warned that it sometimes causes a life-threatening reaction. Glaxo Wellcome Inc.'s Ziagen, known chemically as abacavir, won FDA approval Dec. 17 for patients with the AIDS virus to use as part of their multi-drug cocktails. But about 5 percent of HIV patients suffer a hypersensitivity reaction to the drug that can be life-threatening, said FDA antiviral chief Dr. Heidi Jolson. Symptoms include fever, fatigue, nausea, vomiting and rash, and usually occur within the first six weeks of therapy. Those symptoms can be confused with side effects from other HIV drugs. In a study of Ziagen plus AZT and 3TC, 75 percent of never-treated adult HIV patients saw their HIV plummet to undetectable levels vs. 35 percent who took the older drugs alone.

NIH Issues Grant for Development of Anti-HIV Contraceptives

ROSEVILLE, Minn—The National Institutes of Health awarded a grant to the Hughes Institute of more than $700,000 to develop dual function vaginal spermicides that protect against HIV transmission and pregnancy, a company press release reported on Dec. 16. These compounds may be useful as dual-function vaginal contraceptives for women who are at high risk for HIV by heterosexual vaginal transmission. Sexually active women represent the fastest growing HIV/AIDS risk group. Heterosexual transmission accounts for more than 75 percent of all HIV infections worldwide and constitutes a growing proportion of new HIV infections in the United States.

—From staff and wire reports

KENT CURRY



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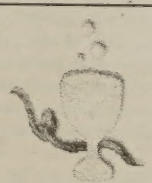

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Taking on the big boys

➢ Continued from Page 1

back on gay businesses and relies entirely on straight companies to serve it, gay consumers could wake up to find themselves once again under-served and largely ignored by mass merchants—just as they were some two decades ago.

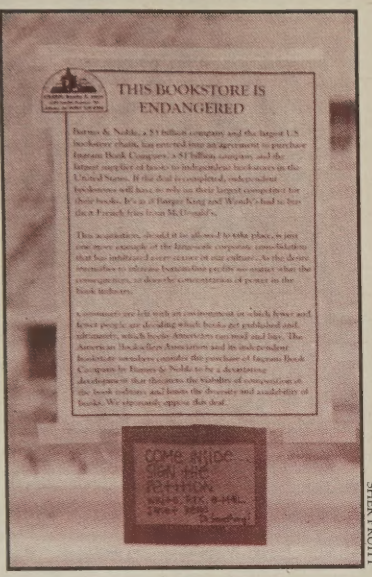
Bookstore blues

One year ago, there were 110 feminist bookstores in the United States. Today there are 85, according to Carol Seejay, who is national coordinator for the Feminist Bookstore Network and editor and publisher of *Feminist Bookstore News*. This dramatic decline marks the first drop in the number of stores since the organization was launched, she said.

"Ninety percent of this is directly related to the chain stores," Seejay said, and the result of very shrewd marketing.

"When they open stores in a community, [Barnes & Noble and Borders] have community relations people who check out everything that is happening at local bookstores. If there's a poetry reading group or a gay men's reading group, they will set up exactly the same thing at their chain store," Seejay said. "The difference is the kind of books that are focused on and the politics. Suddenly the diversity disappears—it's all about white gay men, and there aren't any trannies."

Also challenging gay and lesbian bookstores are on-line retailers like barnesandnoble.com and amazon.com. Because they associate the latter bookseller's name with that of the oldest feminist bookstore in the country, Seejay said that many people "believe amazon.com is lesbian-owned and they are supporting women when they order from there." She also called barnesandnoble.com's banner advertising on



SHER PRUITT

gay-related web-sites as "insidious."

"This is a very sneaky way to get the most committed people to stop spending at our stores and spend at Barnes & Noble," she said.

Of particular concern to gay and other independent booksellers is Barnes & Noble's plan to acquire—for $600 million—the wholesaler Ingram Book Group, the nation's largest supplier of books to independent stores.

"If the deal is completed, independent bookstores will have to rely on their largest competitor for their books," according to a statement from the American Booksellers Association. "It's as if Burger King and Wendy's had to buy their French fries from McDonalds."

"With a level playing field, we can compete with any superstore," said Philip Rafshoon, owner and president of Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse. "If they opened up a store right around the corner, we'd still be in business." Gay-owned Outwrite opened in 1993.

SHER PRUITT

Sherry Emory, Sara Look and Linda Bryant, from Charis Books & More, are pushing a petition aimed at stopping the Barnes & Noble acquisition of the largest supplier to the feminist women's bookstore.

"But this Ingram thing is the biggest threat we've seen. This can potentially dry up our resources for getting books," Rafshoon said. Outwrite buys 50 percent of its books from the Nashville-based wholesaler—80 percent during the holiday rush. Book retailers rely on wholesalers because they can fill and ship orders more quickly than publishers.

The issue is not just book retail but the larger issue of book publishing, said Linda Bryant, co-owner of Charis Books & More, the gay-owned Atlanta feminist bookstore in business since 1974. "If [Barnes & Noble's acquisition of Ingram] goes through, a large percentage of books in the country will be purchased by a large conglomerate. And that conglomerate will have a lot to say about what gets published," Bryant said.

This is already happening, according to Seejay, who said she knows of cases in which books in galley form and ready to print were canceled because major book chain buyers said they weren't interested in stocking the titles.

"I don't mind them being bigger than we are," Bryant said of the book superstores. "But the experience of the independent bookstores in this country is that they have specifically targeted us and made attempts to put us out of business."

Big isn't necessarily bad

Does Barnes & Noble deliberately target gay and feminist bookstores? "Absolutely not," said Mary Ellen Keating, senior vice president for corporate communications at the New York-based retailer. Barnes &

Gay wealth a myth, new study claims

by LAURA BROWN

While gay businesses and marketing surveys have long touted the relative wealth of gay men and lesbians, a recently released study says these claims of affluence are inaccurate and destructive to the fight for gay rights.

Titled "Income Inflation: The Myth of Affluence Among Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Americans," the joint report by the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies works to debunk the "pervasive and inaccurate notion that GLB people form an economic elite, insulated from discrimination by their wealth and disconnected from society at-large, by a special, privileged status."

Previous studies used to assert the high income of gay people—including the most recent survey by the Simmons Market Research Bureau, showed that 28 percent of gay people had personal income over $50,000 and 21 percent had household incomes over $100,000. The "Income Inflation" report says these claims were biased and should not be used to make generalizations about all gay, lesbian and bisexual people.

"People with higher income levels are more likely to be surveyed, since they are more likely to read newspapers and magazines, join organizations, and they are more likely to be able to afford travel to events such as the March on Washington," writes author M.V. Lee Badgett, an economics professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Instead of marketing surveys, Badgett uses sources like the 1990 U.S. Census and two exit polls by the Voter News Service to document that members of the gay community have as much economic diversity as the heterosexual community.

Among the findings:

- The average gay man earns from 4 percent to 7 percent less than the average heterosexual man. In one survey, gay men who worked full-time earned as much as 27 percent less than comparable heterosexual men, a difference Badgett says "strongly suggests the influence of workplace discrimination."
- Women with female partners had earnings comparable to heterosexual women who worked a similar number of hours in similar jobs.
- Households consisting of two men have a higher income than heterosexual couples, but heterosexual couples have a higher average household income than lesbian couples. According to Badgett, "the seemingly large difference in couples' household incomes is mostly due to the gender gap. In 1996, the typical woman working full-time, all year round, still earned only 74 percent of a man's income," making it logical that the more men in a household, the higher the household income.
- Contrary to surveys that portray gay men and lesbians as having high disposable income because they do not have children, the studies show a fairly high percentage of gays parenting. In the VNS poll, 31 percent of lesbians and 37 percent of heterosexual women had children under 18 living at home, compared to 23 percent of gay men and 33 percent of heterosexual men.

Noble operates 519 stores under its own name, as well as 506 B. Dalton bookstores.

"We believe competition is healthy. We have always had good relations with the other stores, including independents," Keating said. "Our strategy in a market is not to target independents but to expand the market for reading."

Barnes & Noble's attempt to buy Ingram and its 11 national distribution centers, Keating said, is an example of vertical integration.

"Their network, combined with ours, will make overnight delivery of millions of titles an affordable reality," said Keating. "We believe that more books will be available to all booksellers as a result of this."

Keating said the chain's interest in the gay and lesbian market is genuine. "We were one of the first bookstores to offer gay and lesbian sections in our stores. And we were one of the first companies to offer benefits to the same-sex partners of our employees."

Only companies large enough to self-insure can offer such benefits in Georgia, thanks to a ruling by state Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine. Lesley Pulliam, manager of Barnes & Noble's Buckhead store, confirmed that she has several employees who take advantage of this benefit to cover their same-sex partner.

"I do think they have targeted specialty stores. I know they have," countered Richard Howorth, president of the American Booksellers Association. In the spring, the ABA filed a lawsuit against Barnes & Noble and Borders charging that they illegally used their clout to get special benefits from publishers.

"Some of my friends who are gay and lesbian booksellers have told me about how [book superstores] come into a market and expand the gay and lesbian section of their stores," said Howorth.

"At first blush, that's good. The problem is that once they put the independents out of business, then what happens? How truly committed are they to selling gay and lesbian books? I would say they're only as committed as their stockholders want them to be," said Howorth, who owns and operates Square Books in Oxford, Miss.

Last month, the Federal Trade Commission announced it will investigate Barnes & Noble's plan to acquire Ingram and that company's $200 million agreement to sell half its on-line barnesandnoble.com service to the German company Bertelsmann, which already owns Random House and Bantam.

Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) joined booksellers in questioning the Ingram deal and called for a thorough review by the FTC.

Howorth called the on-going consolidation of the publishing and book retailing industries "a real threat—not just to a healthy reading society, but to democracy." He urged all to whom these issues matter to "try and support not just independent bookstores, but independent businesses and efforts and communities, as much as they possibly can."

Seejay warned that the current downward trend in the number of independent bookstores is not just part of the normal ups and downs of the business cycle. The independent stores that close are not being replaced by independent stores, she said—and because of consolidation in the marketplace and book retailing's historically low return on investment, they're not likely to be.

ACTION! info

To register opposition to Barnes & Noble's acquisition of Ingram, sign a petition at Outwrite or Charis. Or write your member of Congress and send a copy of your letter to:

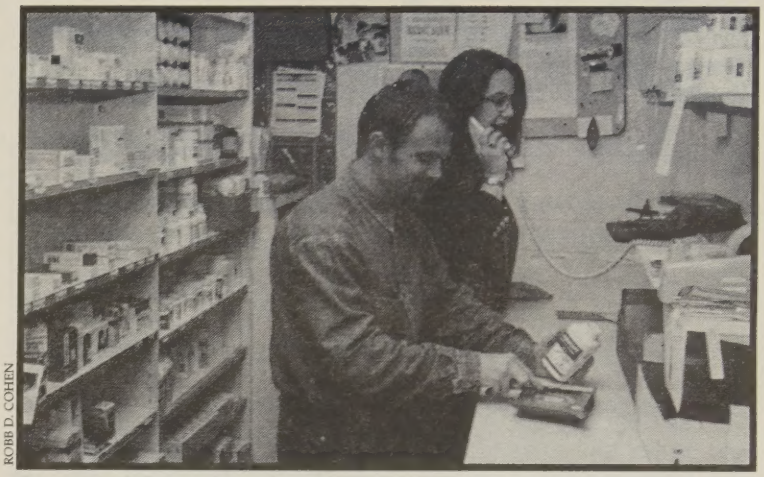
Chairman Robert Pitofsky
Federal Trade Commission
Pennsylvania Ave. and 6th N.W.
Washington, DC 20580-0001

Healthy prognosis for local pharmacies

Despite the remarkable in-town growth of pharmacy chains like CVS, executives of two gay-oriented Atlanta pharmacies are less worried about competition from large national chains, in part because they see themselves as having created a highly specialized market niche—in particular, serving people who are HIV-positive.

In the early days of the epidemic, people who walked into a drug store with a prescription for AIDS medication sometimes faced bias and discrimination, according to Todd Doxtater, co-owner of Atlanta Pharmacy and Gifts.

"I know of a case where someone was in to get some antiviral medications and one of the people there made the comment, 'Just because you guys are sick, you think everybody owes you something.' Comments like that are absolutely unacceptable," Doxtater said. Doxtater and co-owner Britt Roberts, both of whom had worked at gay-oriented Atlanta pharmacies, opened their store last month. Theirs is Midtown's only gay-owned pharmacy, they said, and service is their selling point.



ROBB D. COHEN

APP Specialty Pharmacy in Atlanta employs an herbalist and a clinical nutritionist who specializes in HIV. According to Regional Marketing Director Andrea Baker (right with Wil Johns), physicians call them to ask about proper dosing and aspects of interaction.

"CVS and Eckerd are always going to have their share of the market. We're not in competition with that," Roberts said. "Our market is going to be people who are interested in quality service.

"These chain environments can't offer that individual service all the time, where we can. We're very competitive in pricing, and we're flexible. We can do a lot of things as far as billing and pricing that a lot of chain stores cannot," Roberts said. "We have the customer's best interest in mind."

Areas of expertise at APP Specialty Pharmacy are HIV, transplants and dialysis, according to Regional Marketing Director Andrea Baker. The New York-based company's three stores are in Atlanta, New York City and Miami. The chain was purchased Dec. 1 by another New York company, American Prescription Providers, Inc., after the prior owners—American Preferred Prescriptions, Inc.—went into Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

The Atlanta store's staff includes an herbalist, a clinical nutritionist who specializes in HIV and a pharmacist who has done much work with HIV-positive patients. "Doctors will call us and ask questions about correct dosing and different aspects of interaction. We're happy to be there as a resource for the community," Baker said.

"I don't see the larger chains taking that initiative. They are there to sell garden hose and lawn chairs, and we don't have those here," Baker said. "We are so strong and specialized that they don't worry us at all. They don't have the expertise that we do."

Even so, there is ample evidence that the giant drug chain CVS is not willing to concede the business of HIV patients to gay-oriented pharmacies.

"CVS pharmacists are second-to-none in terms of knowing what's needed and being sensitive to those needs—particularly in a situation where somebody is HIV-positive," said Todd Andrews, spokesman for the Woonsocket, R.I.-based company, which has 4,200 stores with 100,000 employees in 25 states.

In the last year, CVS acquired Revco locations, including a number of in-town Atlanta pharmacies, and has opened new CVS stores throughout the city, including across from Tara Theatre on Cheshire Bridge and a planned location near Emory on North Decatur Road, replacing a Kroger store.

"CVS uses its [computer] network to disseminate information on a regular basis about therapies that are available. In that case, size is a real asset," Andrews said.

He also said that CVS is committed to being fully stocked, so that customers on a multi-drug regimen need not visit more than one store, and will arrange to deliver medicine or fill a prescription at the closest store to a customer.

"CVS has begun putting in separate areas within the pharmacy where patients can receive some level of privacy when they ask the pharmacist questions. That is specifically geared toward the customer who is taking drugs for HIV," Andrews said.

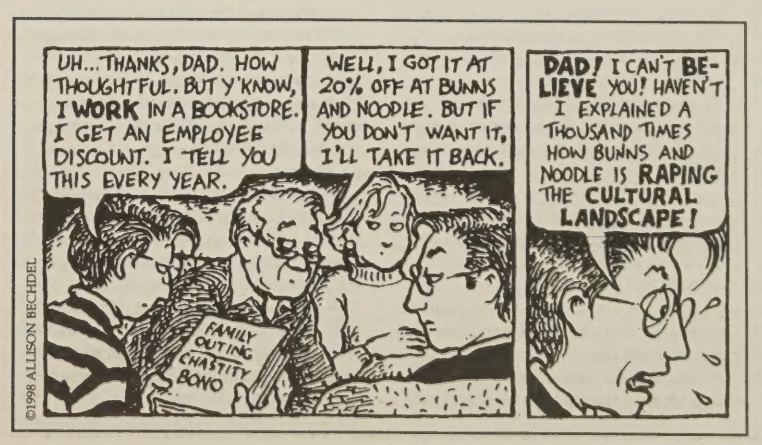
In spite of competition from this corporate giant, Roberts feels his customers will continue to patronize Atlanta Pharmacy and Gifts.

"The atmosphere here permits us to feel open and talk to each other. Sometimes we'll have two patients standing at the counter who don't know each other. Neither one will mind that we're talking about HIV with the other—because we're all in this together."

Michael Sanders, president-elect of the Greater Atlanta Business Coalition, hopes that gay consumers will continue to patronize local businesses that cater to them—even as large chains make aggressive pitches for gay dollars.

"The value in having these businesses is that with smaller businesses, there is more incentive for them to give good customer service to compete with the big chains," Sanders said. "Also, they're going to be more tailored to the community and more responsive to its needs."

Can local gay-oriented businesses hold their own in competition with giant superstores? "I think they can hold on, but it's going to be difficult," Sanders said. "But across the board, people are reaching a point where they are really tired of walking into large chains that are very self-service and devoid of character. They're coming back looking for more quality, rather than quantity."


UH...THANKS, DAD. HOW THOUGHTFUL. BUT Y'KNOW, I WORK IN A BOOKSTORE. I GET AN EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT. I TELL YOU THIS EVERY YEAR.
WELL, I GOT IT AT 20% OFF AT BUNNS AND NOODLE. BUT IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, I'LL TAKE IT BACK.
DAD! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU! HAVEN'T I EXPLAINED A THOUSAND TIMES HOW BUNNS AND NOODLE IS RAPING THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE!
FAMILY OUTING CHASTITY BOYO
©1998 ALLISON BECHDEL

gender IDENTITY disorder

➢ Continued from Page 1

"homosexuality" as a mental disorder in 1973.

"GID allowed psychiatrists to reconcile the declassification of adult homosexuality as a mental disorder with redoubled efforts to prevent the development of homosexuality in gender variant children and youth," writes Shannon Minter, staff attorney and youth project director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

"The troubling thing is that so many gay people don't see this as a gay issue," said Minter, a female-to-male transsexual, in an interview. "They hear 'GID' and think 'transsexual or transgendered, that's got nothing to do with me.' But when it comes to the kids, the great majority are gay or lesbian, and they don't grow up to be transsexual or transgendered."

The GID 'Gift'

Although transgender activists have protested and distributed flyers against the GID diagnosis at medical conferences several times over the last few years, the issue came to the forefront again Dec. 14, when Cooke began circulating her doctored AP story.

Cooke insists she only circulated the false GID story to four Internet mailing lists—"It [was] meant as a holiday gift," she explained—but others picked it up and distributed it widely.

While some questioned the account from the beginning—particularly those who had seen the original AP report on reparative therapy for gays and noticed the identical quotes—others believed and rejoiced, making the news of the story's true origin difficult to take.

One of those who believed and forwarded Cooke's story was respected transgender leader Phyllis Randolph Frye, a Houston-based attorney and activist and founder of the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy (ICTLEP).

"As I read the news coming through, my eyes well up with tears. Tears of Happiness," Frye commented in an e-mail distributing the "story" before the fakery was revealed.

In a later e-mail, Frye called the story "a cruel hoax."

"Even though in my mind we were free of GID for only two days, it was a wonderful feeling and recommits my feeling that we need to get GID out of the DSM," Frye wrote.

"I don't like untruths being spread over the Internet," Frye said later in an interview. "We have such a large amount of work to do, that it doesn't help when someone circulates untruths."

But Cooke said her goal for the performance piece, called "IF," was to challenge people to think about just those reactions Frye said she felt.

After placing a false news item about GID on the Internet, trans activist Suzan Cooke (left) claimed the fakery was a 'performance art' piece. Attorney Shannon Minter (right) says GID is no laughing matter for kids who don't live up to gender stereotypes.

"As for you, I ask of you, think," Cooke wrote in the e-mail revealing the truth. "IF? How would I have to alter my construct of self? What would it mean to my life? "

And while some opponents of GID were upset because their long-awaited goal had not really been achieved, Cooke said her strongest criticism came from transgendered people who do not want to be rid of the Gender Identity Disorder diagnosis.

"I got an awful lot of negative feedback," she admitted, drawing a parallel between the earlier definition of "homosexuality" as a mental disorder and GID's position now.

"Basically, the gay and lesbian movement in the 1950s and '60s was the homophile movement, and they had a certain vested interest in being labeled psychiatric rather than being seen as evil sinners. 'We're sick, not sinners,' was the argument, but then along came gay liberation and stood that paradigm on its head. ...

"Some transgender activists [who oppose taking GID off the list of mental disorders] said, 'Well, people will think I'm just a pervert again,' and that is a real fear. But in fact, GID puts everything we do into this filter that labels very common reactions and emotions and pathologizes them."

The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association makes some similar arguments in its widely accepted "Standards of Care for the Treatment of Gender Identity Disorder," the guidelines followed by most reputable health care providers for transgendered people.

"The designation of Gender Identity Disorders as mental disorders is not a license for stigmatization or for the deprivation of gender patients' civil rights," the standards state. "The use of a formal diagnosis is an important step in offering relief, providing health insurance coverage, and generating research to provide more effective future treatments."

Still, gender advocates said that few transgendered adults are actually able to get reimbursed for costs of counseling, hormone therapy or sex reassignment surgery. With a few exceptions, most private insurance companies exclude these treatments from coverage, and cases of GID treatment being covered by Medicaid remain very few and far between.

The Americans with Disabilities Act also specifically excludes Gender Identity Disorder from coverage, making it difficult to use GID as a tool to challenge bias against transgendered people as a form of illegal disability discrimination.

GID and 'pre-homosexual' children

While the debate over GID in the transgender community often focuses on adults, opponents say one need look no further than the disorder's application to children

Defining Gender Identity Disorder

The definition of **Gender Identity Disorder** according to the diagnostic criteria in the "Diagnostic and Statistic Manual of Mental Disorders" (DSM-IV), put together by the American Psychiatric Association:

A. A strong and persistent cross-gender identification (not merely a desire for any perceived cultural advantages of being the other sex).

In children, the disturbance is manifested by four (or more) of the following:

1. repeatedly stated desire to be, or insistence that he or she is, the other sex;

2. in boys, preference for cross-dressing or simulating female attire; in girls, insistence in wearing only stereotypical masculine attire;

3. strong and persistent preferences for cross-sex roles in make-believe play or persistent fantasies of being the other sex;

4. intense desire to participate in the stereotypical games and pastimes of the other sex;

5. strong preference for playmates of the other sex.

In adolescents and adults, the disturbance is manifested by symptoms such as a stated desire to be the other sex, frequent passing as the other sex, desire to live or be treated as the other sex, or the conviction that he or she has the typical feelings and reactions of the other sex.

B. Persistent discomfort with his or her sex or sense of inappropriateness in the gender role of that sex.

In children, the disturbance is manifested by any of the following:

in boys, assertion that his penis or testes are disgusting or will disappear or assertion that it would be better not to have a penis, or aversion toward rough-and-tumble play and rejection of male stereotypical toys, games and activities;

in girls, rejection of urinating in a sitting position, assertion that she has or will grow a penis, or assertion that she does not want to grow breasts or menstruate, or marked aversion toward normative feminine clothing.

In adolescents and adults, the disturbance is manifested by symptoms such as preoccupation with getting rid of primary and secondary sex characteristics (e.g. request for hormones, surgery, or other procedures to physically alter sexual characteristics to simulate the other sex) or belief that he or she was born the wrong sex.

C. The disturbance is not concurrent with a physical intersex condition [in which an individual has some form of male and female genitalia].

D. The disturbance causes clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning.

to see both the problems with GID and why gays should be concerned by it.

The specific criteria included in the DSM for a GID diagnosis in children and adults "is where the controversy comes in," said Dr. Barbara Rubin, an Atlanta therapist who works with transgendered clients.

Criteria for a GID diagnosis in children include characteristics like an "intense desire to participate in the stereotypical games and pastimes of the other sex" and "strong preference for playmates of the other sex." [See sidebar, page 18].

"For example, for many years when I was a child, I considered myself a tomboy and was labeled that way as a cute reference to some aspects of my behavior, how I defined myself and the kind of clothing I wore," Rubin said.

"But being a tomboy wasn't something I carried with me into adolescence and adulthood, ... and I could have been labeled with gender identity disorder, when in fact I don't know the benefit of labeling a child with a psychiatric diagnosis at that age ... when a lot of the criteria are stereotypically based themselves."

The results of GID's application to children can be horrifyingly homophobic, said NCLR's Minter. The California-based nonprofit offers free legal aid and assistance to youth dealing with GID issues.

"The great majority of children treated for GID grow up to be lesbian, gay or bisexual. A small percentage grow up to be transsexual," Minter documented in an extensive information sheet on GID in children distributed by the NCLR.

Among the typical case studies Minter found in a survey of psychiatric literature:

• Kevin, a 10-year-old boy who preferred to play with girls and dolls. In sessions over 15 weeks, a therapist worked with Kevin to help him understand a "covert modeling sequence."

One example of such a sequence prompted Kevin to "walk just like" the television character the Six Million Dollar Man because "he doesn't move his hands very much when walking and his wrist isn't limp or loose."

• Becky, a 7-year-old girl whose mother said she "acted too much like a boy." In her therapy, Becky was given a wrist counter and left to play in a playroom filled with "girl toys" and "boy toys" to teach her to choose which was gender appropriate.

"You may play with any of the toys that you like, but you can only press the wrist counter when playing with girls' toys," the researcher told her.

• Kyle, who entered a "behavior modification program" at age five and was put on a system where he received blue tokens for "desirable," "boy" behaviors and red tokens for "feminine behaviors." Kyle could trade in blue tokens for treats, while red tokens "resulted in a loss of blue tokens, periods of isolation, or spanking by father."

Reasons the doctors gave for these treatments are best represented in the writings of George Rekers, an academic and clinician at the University of South Carolina and one of the leading proponents of treating GID in children.

"From the result of my research studies, it now appears that a preventive treatment for transvestitism, transsexualism and some forms of homosexuality has indeed been isolated in these techniques of early identification and early intervention in the childhood years," Rekers wrote in a 1987 article published in the *Journal of Family and Culture*.

From mental disorder to civil rights

While a growing number of transgendered activists and supportive health care providers oppose the diagnosis of GID as it is currently defined, they disagree on what diagnosis—if any—should take its place. Most argue that some sort of medical diagnosis for transsexualism is necessary to justify medical treatment and require standards of care.

For children, activists like Minter suggest as models those progressive programs used for gay youth, which offer young people support in dealing with the ostracism they may face from society, without suggesting that there is anything about their identity that needs changing.

Minter sees a "glaring contradiction" in the American Psychiatric Association's acceptance of GID treatment for children while simultaneously opposing "reparative therapy" that attempts to convert adult gay men and lesbians into heterosexuals.

"The APA has taken the position that there is no basis for treating adults based on these 'reparative' therapies, but they've yet to take the stand that it's not okay to treat children with essentially the same therapies," he said. "If it's bogus with adults, why is it not bogus with children?"

For transgendered adults, activists and some therapists suggest a move from the psychiatric diagnosis of GID to a medical definition that would enable access to transition-related care, but with less stigma attached.

"We do not advocate an immediate, blanket elimination of GID in a vacuum, without an alternative means of ensuring continued access to and reimbursement for hormones and surgeries," wrote Frye and Minter in a joint statement.

Yet Minter and others also say attaching a diagnosis to transgender people—whether GID or a medical definition such as transsexualism—is ultimately far less important than providing access to quality health care for this community.

"What I mostly want to see is that we become better consumers and advocates for ourselves. We don't need a perfect solution—that we would get rid of GID, and do this, that and the other—we just need to start speaking up. ... We have to do something about our health care," Minter said.

For too long, transgendered people had to accept the GID diagnosis as a necessary step toward the treatment they wanted, but that is changing, said Kim Ribbans, communications director for TRANS=ACTION, Georgia's transgender education and advocacy group.

"In the last two or three years, there's been a huge change. People used to just feel that you just had to buckle under, follow the rules and get the diagnosis so you could go into transition, get the surgery and move on," Ribbans said. "Now people are beginning to take control over their own lives."

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EDITORIAL

'Politics of personal destruction' has an up side

Bob Livingston was understandably shaken. In one month's time, he had risen to a pinnacle of power in Washington and come crashing back down to earth, chastened and shamed.

Elected by Republicans to replace Newt Gingrich as Speaker, Livingston withdrew as the heir apparent when he learned that *Hustler* Publisher Larry Flynt was preparing to go public with information about a series of extramarital affairs by the 10-term Louisiana congressman.

A long-time moderate well-liked by members of the House from both parties, Livingston was the latest public servant to have his reputation wrecked and his career destroyed for the private sin of being morally imperfect.

Because Livingston was so well-respected and because so many politicians see Larry Flynt's writing on their own bedroom wall, there has been much deserved attention paid to "the politics of personal destruction" and how excessive partisanship and the modern media have made a mockery out of personal privacy.

You could almost see him shake his head in bewilderment when he was asked by a *New York Times* reporter about "the limits of legitimate inquiry into the private lives of public figures."

"This is so far beyond anything I ever thought about," he answered. "Certainly, people have a right to believe in their leaders. But it's your professional life that counts most."

The tragedy (in the Greek sense) of Livingston's meteoric rise and fall lies in just how correct he is on principle. A person's private sex life does *not* bear any relationship to that person's job performance.

And when we start letting private conduct be used to disqualify candidates for office, it's not just the would-be public servant who is wrongly harmed. As a nation, we are deprived the service of talented and dedicated public servants because of some unattainable moral standard and a Puritanical zeal to ferret out private sins of the flesh.

That message has a lot of appeal for gay and lesbian Americans, who are among the most prone to have the purported sins of their private sex lives offered as justification for unequal treatment by their employers and their government.

It's one reason why gays rallied so overwhelmingly behind Bill Clinton as he faced off with the Bull Connor of the sex police, Ken Starr—only this time the firehose is to be turned on anyone who shows a little too much interest in matters of the flesh.

For any us wavering about which side to join in this battle in the ongoing Culture Wars, there was Rev. Jerry Falwell on CNBC, sealing the deal. Told of Livingston's admission, Falwell conflated private morality with public service, as he has made a career of doing.

"Out of 226 Republicans in the House," said Falwell, "there ought to be a man or woman who has been faithful to his or her spouse all the way, and who is in fact a role model."

But at the risk of allowing Ken Starr the pleasure of a formal investigation to confirm Rev. Falwell's assumptions, it is worth remembering that the "politics of personal destruction" has a significant up-side. There is no more visceral means of educating politicians and the American public about the evils of "sex regulation" than actually applying the regs to the lives of those who write them.

Take Bob Livingston, for example. For the first time in his life, he found his career impacted by his private sexual behavior, and he clearly did not like how it made him feel.

"I just can't believe that somebody would do that to me," he told the *Times*, referring to Larry Flynt's million-dollar offer to mistresses (and misters?) willing to go public about extramarital affairs with GOP members of Congress.

"Welcome to the big leagues," Livingston moaned in self-pity. "Welcome to the big world."

Close, but no cigar, Mr. Livingston. Welcome to the *real* world, would more like it.

Like Michael Bowers, a fellow-traveller in extramarital hypocrisy, Bob Livingston is a man who rose to power in the Republican party while consistently promoting the idea that private sexual activity is undeniably relevant to job performance. But when the stakes were *his* private sex life and *his* job as Speaker, the rules seemed suddenly unfair.

Every time he could, Bob Livingston has voted in Congress for "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the policy that discharges openly gay service members, even while the Pentagon struggles to retain quality troops. Livingston's message: private sex is relevant to whether these patriotic Americans could hold down a job.

Last year, he voted for the Hefley Amendment, which would have repealed President Clinton's executive order protecting federal employees from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Livingston's message: private sex is relevant in making decisions about hiring, firing and promoting federal employees.

The arguments about "outing" public figures over this sort of public v. private hypocrisy are familiar to most of us. Do two wrongs make a right? Do the ends justify the means?

But the analogy of "outing" closeted homosexuals in the public sphere isn't necessarily a perfect fit to Washington's latest sex scandals. Being gay and hiding that from public view doesn't involve the same trustworthiness issues that arise when a public figure is lying to his spouse and violating a marital oath.

It's a much similar case when the hidden private behavior bears a strong resemblance to the kind of activity that the public figure condemns and writes laws to penalize.

In Livingston's case, the hypocrisy is over whether private sexual behavior is relevant to public employment. But his dogged pursuit of the President, even as his own peccadilloes were exposed, opens up other lines of attack.

He distinguishes his own conduct from the President's because, says Livingston, "I've not committed any crimes." Not so under the sex regulations of his own home state. It's still illegal in Louisiana for Livingston to have sex with someone other than his wife, although he hasn't made clear where geographically he "strayed."

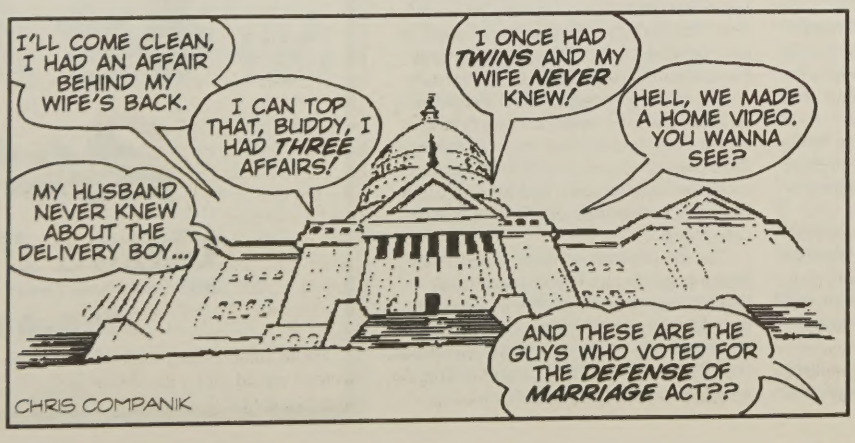
And depending where on his (or his paramour's) body he strayed, Louisiana's sodomy law comes into play. It applies to heterosexual or homosexual, oral or anal sex, though it is currently under challenge in a high-profile gay rights case.

Seem a little too picky to be asking what body parts got touched (and by whom) in Livingston's extramarital encounters? Then why did he vote to impeach the President for lying to the grand jury?

The Big Lie is whether the President engaged in "sexual relations" with Monica Lewinsky as defined in the Paula Jones litigation. The only point on this score where the President's account differs with Monica's is over whether he ever touched her breasts and genitals for the purpose of sexual arousal. She says it happened; he says it didn't.

So what is to be made of this new era of sexual McCarthyism? In a very real sense, the sexual investigations act like a sort of pro-gay affirmative action: Until there's a level playing field for gays in public and private life, then outing the sexual hypocrisy of our politicians is a "necessary evil."

The danger, of course, is that McCarthyism of any variety rarely stays in neat lines, and in the hands of Ken Starr or Jerry Falwell, there's no telling where that firehose will be pointed next.


I'LL COME CLEAN, I HAD AN AFFAIR BEHIND MY WIFE'S BACK.
I CAN TOP THAT, BUDDY, I HAD THREE AFFAIRS!
I ONCE HAD TWINS AND MY WIFE NEVER KNEW!
HELL, WE MADE A HOME VIDEO. YOU WANNA SEE?
MY HUSBAND NEVER KNEW ABOUT THE DELIVERY BOY...
AND THESE ARE THE GUYS WHO VOTED FOR THE DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT??
CHRIS COMPANIK

VIEWPOINT

Are we setting the example in age of sexual McCarthyism?

by CINDY L. ABEL

I was wrapping presents when my partner rushed in from shopping and told me. "You'll never believe it, Bob Livingston has resigned! Must be more about those affairs he doesn't want revealed!"

My first reaction was "live by the sword, die by the sword—guess he couldn't live up to his own standard."

Later, watching CNN weave together the stories of the day's other events—the impeachment of the President and the bombing of Iraq—I felt more sadness than my initial "you reap what you sow" attitude.

Sadness not out of fondness for Mr. Livingston, the would-be Speaker of the House who acknowledged a series of extramarital affairs, but for our country and our community. Sadness because I wondered who would ever want to run for office in this climate, where sexual behavior is subjected to more scrutiny than voting record and philosophical beliefs. Sadness, not because the standard is too high, but rather is the wrong standard for selecting those who would make decisions about the lives of thousands.

I do not want a legislator who has no experience of wrong-doing, nor one who has managed to hide shortcomings and stands in hypocritical judgement of the rest of us. I want public officials who have agonized over revealing their shame, dared to tell the truth, and been humbled by the realization that everyone—including them—has fallen. When it comes to making laws that govern my life, I want a representative whose conscience reminds, when establishing standards, that "there but for the grace of God go I."

The rigidness of the standards being exacted in current politics fails to reflect the compassion of the God many "conservatives" claim to represent. Their lives also fail to reflect the morality shared by most spiritual traditions.

Is it moral to reserve proper health care for the wealthy and deny assistance for the poor living with the consequences of risky sexual behavior, be it pregnancy or HIV? Is it moral to bomb Iraq while ignoring the flagrant violation of human rights in other countries? Is it moral to look only to personal financial gain and ignore the plight of neighbors struggling to pay their taxes?

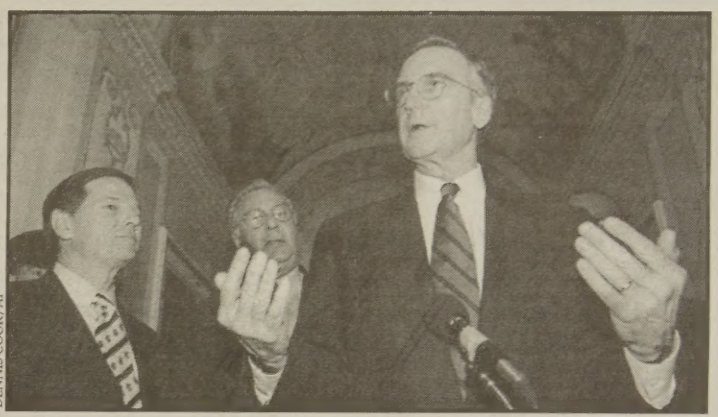
As a community of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Americans, what are our moral values? We often have little more than our status as "gender transgressors" that connects us one to another, and the manner in which we respond to each other often demonstrates the frailty of that bond.

While we call for acceptance by those who exclude us, are we at least tolerant of those in our community who espouse different opinions? Can we live up to the standard to which we hold the heterosexual community? In our struggle for full equality, we have so much to teach our fellow Americans, if we can first learn the lessons ourselves.

We know how to provide tender care for our sick and dying, while fighting furiously and tirelessly in the streets and in the halls of Congress to pass critical legislation that would save their lives.

We know how to raise our voices and be heard, how to be seen in a world that would often prefer us to be invisible. We refuse to take "no" for an answer that should be "yes," and we hold our heads high when walking into places we have been denied access.

These are all lessons that could benefit the rest of the world at a time when health care and human rights sit in a fragile balance, and private behavior would transcend public contributions—if only we'd stop fighting each other long enough to remember our accomplishments and teach them to others.



DENNIS COOK/AP

I do not want a legislator who has no experience of wrong-doing, nor one who has managed to hide shortcomings and stands in hypocritical judgement of the rest of us.

If we can learn to live together in community, expressing and listening to divergent views with respect, treating each other with the understanding and compassion we would seek for ourselves, we will be an example of the very tolerance we require from society at large. If we cannot live it, how can we expect it from others?

As the new year begins, let us look not only at "what" we want accomplished, but also "why" and "how." As individuals, let us determine our own values and pledge to live by them, implementing them in our circles as well as in the organizations we support. Before criticizing those in leadership roles, may we ask ourselves: is this a standard by which I wish to evaluated?

William Thackeray said, "It's not dying for a faith that's hard. It's living up to it." The same can be said about our values. Many have died in this fight for inclusion and respect; may the rest of us live in such a way that demonstrates those qualities daily.

Cindy L. Abel is an Atlanta-based communications and political consultant and the former executive director of the Georgia Equality Project. She can be reached through this publication.

LETTERS

To help the girls, adults are needed

To the Editor:

I regret that Quashawn Donovan has yet to find a Brownie troop to join ("Girl Scout Troops in New York Reject HIV-Positive 8-Year-Old," news, Dec. 3). But I understand the Adirondack Girl Scout Council's response that they need more adult volunteers to accommodate the girls who want to become Girl Scouts.

As an activist and straight supporter of equal rights for gays, I am carefully aware of how I commit my volunteer time.

I enjoyed 10 years of Girl Scouting as a girl. For the past three years, I have volunteered as a Girl Scout troop leader in Smyrna, although my co-leader and I have no children. Without our involvement, the 40 girls who have belonged to our troop would have had no group to join. Just in our area of Smyrna, there is a waiting list of more than 100 girls who want to join Brownie (first, second and third grade) and Junior (fourth, fifth and sixth grade) troops.

The Northwest Georgia Girl Scout Council requires all volunteers to sign a code of ethics that includes sexual orientation in its non-discrimination statement. My 13 years of Girl Scouting have taught me to respect all people, to be friendly and considerate, and to be courageous and strong, among other tenets of the Girl Scout Law.

Unlike the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts do not reject lesbian members or leaders, as *Southern Voice* reported some time ago. ("The other Scouting movement," news, April 30).

I encourage women and men, gay and straight, parents and childless, to donate their time and energy to improve the lives of children through Girl Scouting or other organizations that do not discriminate against our lesbian and gay friends and neighbors.

Margaret Rhodes
Marietta, Ga.

Editor's note: Quashawn Donovan has since been invited to join a Brownie troop led by a man who had heard news reports about the girl.

If I were a gay man

To the Editor:

I have just finished reading Jennifer Vanasco's column asking "If you couldn't be a lesbian, what would you be?" (op-ed, Nov. 26). She describes a dinner conversation she had with five other lesbians where she posed the question of whether they would rather be a straight woman, a straight man or a gay man, if they could not be a lesbian.

I was very surprised that none of the six gave the answer I would have given. If I could not be a lesbian, I would want to be a gay man. I don't even have to think about it!

While Vanasco says some of these woman would prefer the sexual and romantic connection that they could have with women as straight men, or the close friendships they might enjoy with other women as heterosexual females, a sense of community is what wins out for me.

Being gay and connecting with the community has been a wonderful experience for me. It has made me more respectful of diversity, challenged notions of gender that society had instilled in me, and liberated me from the expectation that society nearly forces upon us: that we must marry someone of the opposite sex, drive a mini-van, buy a house in the suburbs and raise 2.5 children.

In other words, it has given me the freedom to be me, choose my own idea of family, and cultivate close friendships based on the bond of community.

So, if I have to be reincarnated as something other than a lesbian, give me a CD of the greatest showtunes ever, and let me be a gay man!

Carolyn Bibb
Decatur, Ga.

LETTERS

It's not gay liberals breaking new ground

To the Editor:

I read, initially with amusement, then with some concern, Randy Fair's column on gay moderates and conservatives ("The oxymoron of being gay and conservative," op-ed, Nov. 26). Once again, Log Cabin Republicans are being attacked for endorsing only Republican candidates.

There seems to be some continuing misconception about whether or not Log Cabin is a Republican group. We did not endorse Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney. Of course not. She's a Democrat. Actually, she's a socialist, but they never fare too well in U.S. elections.

LCR prefers to save its endorsements for Republican candidates who are sensitive to the concerns of their gay constituents. LCR does not endorse non-Republican candidates because we disagree with them on many basic issues.

Mr. Fair criticizes gay moderates and conservatives for supporting non-discrimination but not supporting affirmative action, as though one were synonymous with the other and support for one mandated support for the other.

They are not synonymous. One is actually in opposition to the other. Gay moderates and conservatives are opposed to discrimination. Against themselves. Against anyone.

Affirmative action is discrimination. It sets one or a few groups ahead of others. Coupling affirmative action with non-discrimination says to some "even on a level playing field, you are incapable of success unless your success is legally mandated."

Mr. Fair misses his Orwellian trap: All are equal. Some are more equal than others.

I have long noticed that there is a set of beliefs and positions you're expected to hold if you profess to be gay. If you do not hold to these, expect to be repeatedly chastised. Mr. Fair is upset that gay moderates and conservatives do not hold these views.

He contends that by shucking off what he considers to be mainstream values, he, and gays like him, are free to explore new modes of existence and thought. But in truth, all he has done is to sign on to the mandated liberal socio-political agenda.

In truth, it is gay moderates and conservatives who are exploring new and different modes of gay existence.

Tim Cottle
Decatur, Ga.

Not feeling too sorry for Ellen and Anne

To the Editor:

At the risk of joining the ranks of what Ellen DeGeneres and Anne Heche call the "homophobic gays who treated them the worst" (Dish, Dec. 3), I have to admit that I am sick and tired of hearing these two privileged women belly-aching about how damn tough their cushy lives are.

Gee, let's see: both have movies coming out; Ellen has made hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars in a prime-time, mediocre sitcom; and Anne has made tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of dollars in big-name movies with big name co-stars.

TIME
Yep, I'm Also Whiny
Ellen talks about how at first she wanted to be noticed, then NOT noticed, then noticed her girlfriend is now getting all the movie parts and Will & Grace is usually funnier.

CHRIS COMPANIK

Now that they have found "honesty" (and they seem to remark on it as if they were the first two people in the world to do so), they are finding out that others in HollyWeird are not being honest with them. Hello?! Join us! How honest was Ellen before the last year of her sitcom? She covered up. Now that she has seen the light, she expects the rest of Hollywood to follow suit? She needs to leave town.

Perhaps Ellen should get a job as a line-cook in a Cracker Barrel restaurant for slightly more than minimum wage as her sole source of income and Anne can sling hash out front while wearing ruffles and an apron. Then when both of them lose their jobs because of their sexual orientation, I'll have a sympathetic ear. Ellen was closeted and making millions while others were really struggling to be themselves and scratch out a living.

If only Ellen & Anne would stop taking themselves so seriously by posing as poster-women of discrimination. All gays and lesbians should be in their miserable condition with their lack of resources!

Those poor kids. I wish they'd make a New Year's resolution to shut up until they have something positive and constructive to say or do. Wouldn't that really show up those homophobic gays?

Doug Lothes
Decatur, Ga.

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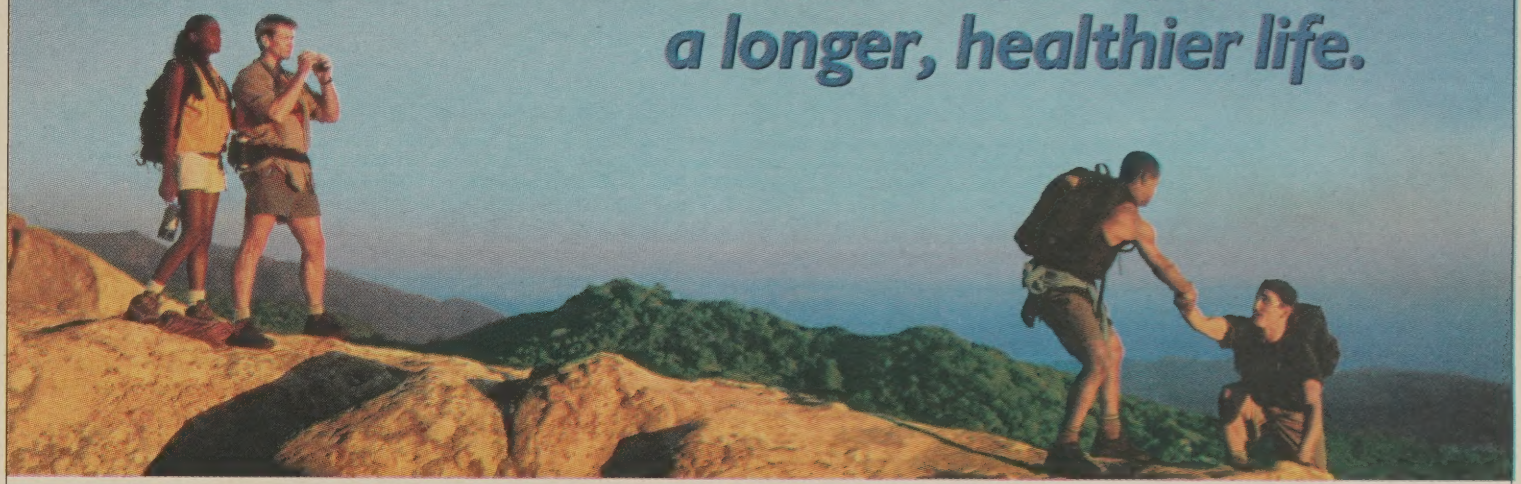
If you're HIV+, CRIXIVAN may help you live a longer, healthier life.



- **New NIH research showed people taking CRIXIVAN in triple therapy lived longer and experienced fewer opportunistic infections.**
  - Recent year-long research conducted by the National Institutes of Health (Protocol ACTG 320) studied over 1,000 patients and confirmed results from another study.
  - The group of patients receiving CRIXIVAN along with 3TC and AZT achieved a reduction in deaths and AIDS-defining illnesses over those taking 3TC and AZT alone. This reduction was significant enough for the NIH to recommend the study be stopped, so that all participants could benefit from the findings. Because the study was ended early, there was insufficient data to determine the statistical impact of CRIXIVAN on survival.
- **CRIXIVAN in triple therapy continues to hold serum viral load down below the limit of detection at the one year mark.**
  - In a separate, ongoing landmark study, over 90% of the 31 patients receiving CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their HIV serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks (as measured by available tests; the virus may still be present in other organ systems).
  - Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one year mark.
- **CRIXIVAN is generally well tolerated.**
  - CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. There are side effects associated with protease inhibitors in general and CRIXIVAN in particular. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems. There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor.
  - As with other protease inhibitors, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Please read the following page for detailed information on side effects and dosing.

Please read the following page for more detailed information about CRIXIVAN.

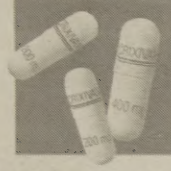
CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 T-cell count. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.

Remember to ask your doctor about CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN®
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

Going the distance.

MERCK www.crixivan.com



CRIXIVAN®
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

Patient Information about CRIXIVAN® (KRIK-sih-van)
for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
Generic name: indinavir (in-DIH-nuh-veer) sulfate

Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, you should read the information included with CRIXIVAN each time you receive your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this information does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor.** Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays." If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
2. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, *every day*.** It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
3. **If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time.** However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
4. **Take CRIXIVAN with water.** You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
5. **Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.** Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include:
   - dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want)
   - corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar

   Do not take CRIXIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein (for example — a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIXIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIXIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and may lessen its effect.
6. **It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) throughout the day, every day. CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones.** Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
- You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN.

Also talk to your doctor if you have:

- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
- Problems with your kidneys.
- Diabetes
- Hemophilia

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines.

Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?**

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine)	HISMANAL® (astemizole)
VERSED® (midazolam)	HALCION® (triazolam)
PROPULSID® (cisapride)	Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).

In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.

Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT)	BIAXIN® (clarithromycin)
TAGAMET® (cimetidine)	isoniazid (INH)
DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole)	ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)
EPIVIR™ (lamivudine, 3TC)	ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T)

BACTRIM®/SEPTRA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)

VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.

MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXVAN.

NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is **not** a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this page alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

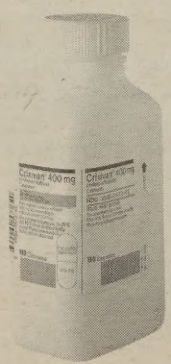
Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

Marketing Experience

Other side effects reported since CRIXIVAN has been marketed include: abdominal swelling; inflammation of the kidneys; increased fat appearing in areas such as the neck, abdomen, and back; change in skin color; severe skin reactions; hair loss; crystals in the urine; and allergic reactions.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms. If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.



How should I store CRIXIVAN capsules?

- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°F-86°F).
- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.

This medication is prescribed for a particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

This provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

CRIXIVAN®
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Capsules

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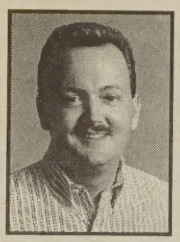


PLANT LIFE

Disney-fied Christmas earns a Bah-Humbug

by DREW PLANT

This is the time of year when I get catalogs in the mail full of photos of models frolicking in flannel or fleece ("Look, Magic, it's fleece!"). What bothers me isn't the myriad of things they all seem to be able to do in their PJs—it's the fact that they do it all barefoot.

Now why do I need fuzzy, warm jammies if I'm going to run around without socks, shoes or maybe marabou slippers? Okay, I shouldn't be such a grouch. After all, someone in my profession probably approved the using-a-fabulous-new-blender-attachment-in-the-snow picture.

And my attitude on such only underscores what several colleagues and friends think my disposition is this holiday season. Because I'm not skipping and whistling (okay, because I'm not whistling), I've been accused of not being in the holiday spirit.

In fact, one friend announced that it would take six ghosts—not just the standard three—to get me in an appropriately festive and charitable mood.

That comment came after a business trip took me to Orlando for an overdose of Mickey Mania. I returned with a particular distaste for the artificial and unrelenting happiness that had surrounded me for three days.

Everyone wishes you "a magical day!" (said with a sing-song in their voice.) And, I mean everyone. When you check into the hotel, when you flirt with the bellboy, when you call meeting services to ask where the damn overhead projector is—anytime, anywhere for no reason.

If that's not bad enough, when I had to switch from one hotel to another, a desk clerk—apparently not realizing I would be irritated by having to swap rooms and hotels within the same complex—said, "I hope we've been able to bring out the child in your heart!" No, but you've found my gag reflex.

Then, there are the wake-up calls. Day One at Hotel One provided a live person who told me this was the call I had requested and wanted to know if he could call back in 15 minutes so I could have "15 more minutes of peaceful slumber." Why don't you just give me a poison apple, Snow White?

But you guessed it, when I refused the sleep-extension I was wished—a magical day!

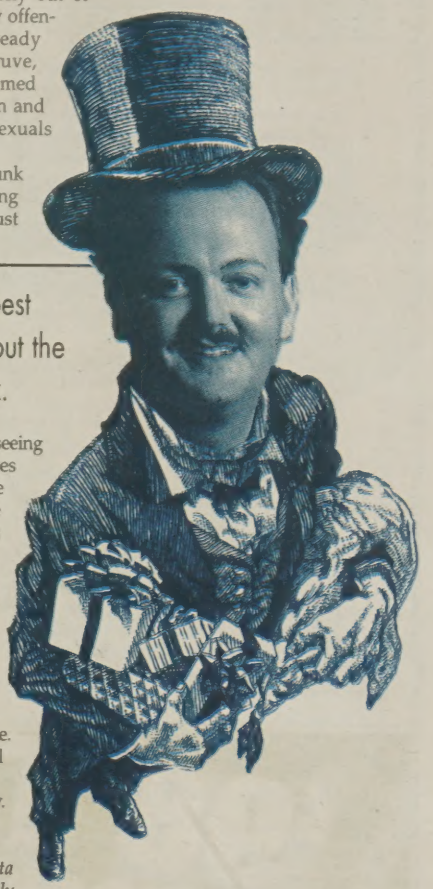
Day Two at Hotel Two began with a recorded wake-up call. After music—I believe "It's a Small World..."—played for a few excruciating seconds, an all-too-chipper Mickey Mouse said something like, "Wake up pal, we've got lots to do and see today! Rise and shine! See you later! Have a magical day!"

Actually, the kicker was being told "Mickey would want you to be happy" after a snafu landed my boss and me in the same hotel room. The situation was worked out quickly and with great aplomb, but it did bring me into contact with several extra happy people.

Maybe it was all the worse because this was Christmas season at Disney. Even though the hotels are already permeated by various themes and theme colors (you can carry a bad thing too far), they all feel compelled to decorate in the typical red and green of the season.

Get the picture? Not only was everyone artificially happy, but Christmas seemed way overdone and completely out of place. Can you imagine how offensive that was to an already Scrooge-like fag? A mauve, peach and teal tropically-themed hotel festooned in red, green and gold? Obviously, heterosexuals had done the decorating.

But, really, I'm not in a funk about the holidays. If anything I'm complacent. The spirit just hasn't hit me.



When the Disney hotel messed up my reservations, the best they could offer was, "I hope we've been able to bring out the child in your heart!" No, but you've found my gag reflex.

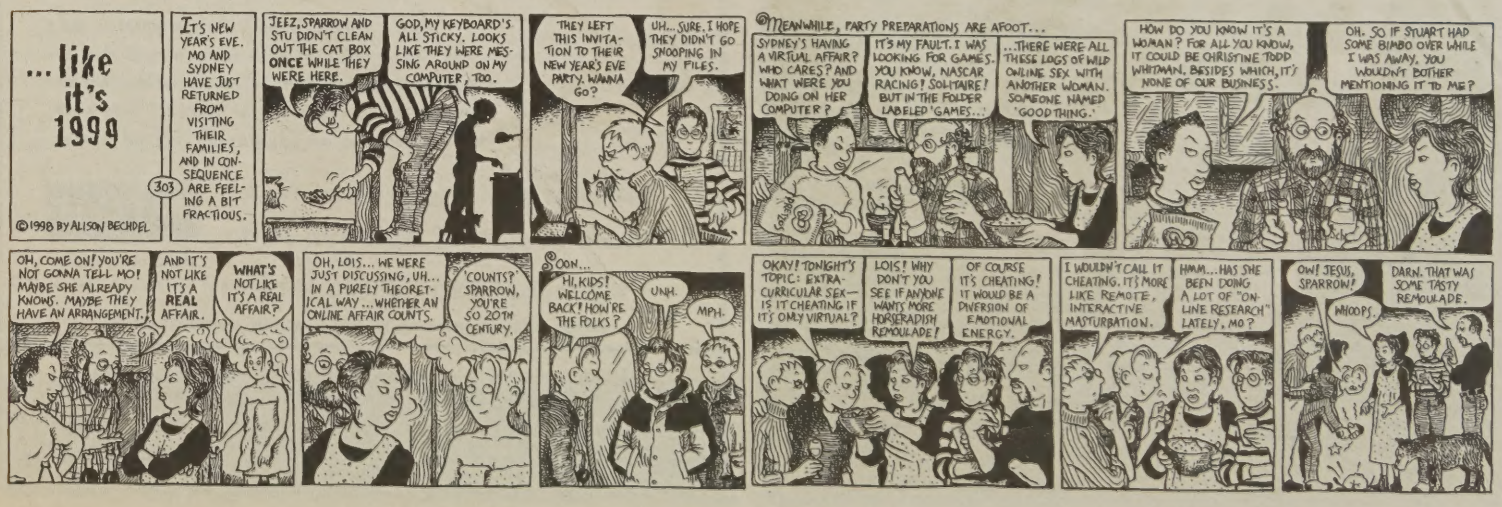
I'm looking forward to seeing family—especially my nieces and nephew—but all of the trappings just don't interest me this year. I struggled with this for a while until a therapist-friend said, "maybe that's the way it should be. This might not be a bad thing."

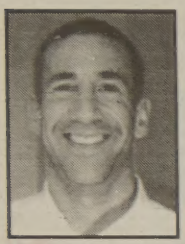
So, I'll look forward to "just visiting" this Christmas, but especially to next year, when I plan to stay home, snuggled up with my New Love. Maybe we'll wear our flannel PJs—and no socks.

Have a magical holiday. Really. I mean it.

Drew Plant is an Atlanta writer who is not typically surly, but will make an exception with ease. He's expecting switches and ashes from Santa.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel


...like it's 1999
©1998 BY ALISON BECHDEL
303
IT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE. MO AND SYDNEY HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM VISITING THEIR FAMILIES, AND IN CONSEQUENCE ARE FEELING A BIT FRACTIOUS.
JEEZ, SPARROW AND STU DIDN'T CLEAN OUT THE CAT BOX ONCE WHILE THEY WERE HERE.
GOD, MY KEYBOARD'S ALL STICKY. LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE MESSING AROUND ON MY COMPUTER, TOO.
THEY LEFT THIS INVITATION TO THEIR NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY. WANNA GO?
UH... SURE. I HOPE THEY DIDN'T GO SNOOPING IN MY FILES.
MEANWHILE, PARTY PREPARATIONS ARE AFOOT...
SYDNEY'S HAVING A VIRTUAL AFFAIR? WHO CARES? AND WHAT WERE YOU DOING ON HER COMPUTER?
IT'S MY FAULT. I WAS LOOKING FOR GAMES. YOU KNOW, NASCAR RACING? SOLITAIRE! BUT IN THE FOLDER LABELED 'GAMES'...
...THERE WERE ALL THESE LOGS OF WILD ONLINE SEX WITH ANOTHER WOMAN. SOMEONE NAMED 'GOODTHING.'
HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S A WOMAN? FOR ALL YOU KNOW, IT COULD BE CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN. BESIDES WHICH, IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSINESS.
OH. SO IF STUART HAD SOME BIMBO OVER WHILE I WAS AWAY, YOU WOULDN'T BOTHER MENTIONING IT TO ME?
OH, COME ON! YOU'RE NOT GONNA TELL MO? MAYBE SHE ALREADY KNOWS. MAYBE THEY HAVE AN ARRANGEMENT.
AND IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S A REAL AFFAIR.
WHAT'S NOT LIKE IT'S A REAL AFFAIR?
OH, LOIS... WE WERE JUST DISCUSSING, UH... IN A PURELY THEORETICAL WAY... WHETHER AN ONLINE AFFAIR COUNTS.
'COUNTS? SPARROW, YOU'RE SO 20TH CENTURY.
SOON...
HI, KIDS! WELCOME BACK! HOW'RE THE FOLKS?
UNH.
MPH.
OKAY! TONIGHT'S TOPIC: EXTRA-CURRICULAR SEX— IS IT CHEATING IF IT'S ONLY VIRTUAL?
LOIS! WHY DON'T YOU SEE IF ANYONE WANTS MORE HORSERADISH REMOULADE!
OF COURSE IT'S CHEATING! IT WOULD BE A DIVERSION OF EMOTIONAL ENERGY.
I WOULDN'T CALL IT CHEATING. IT'S MORE LIKE REMOTE, INTERACTIVE MASTURBATION.
HMM... HAS SHE BEEN DOING A LOT OF "ON-LINE RESEARCH" LATELY, MO?
OW! JESUS, SPARROW!
WHOOPS.
DARN. THAT WAS SOME TASTY REMOULADE.



BUBBLE BUTTS

Holiday season leaves little to rejoice for some in 'gay scene'

by LORNE OPLER

It's often considered the most pleasurable of seasons; the chance to be with people we care about, be they family or friends or just a special someone. Many of us look forward to the parties, the dinners, the receptions and celebrations that happen throughout the holiday season.

But for lots of gay men, the holiday season leaves little to feel happy about. No, it has nothing to do with the family reunions many of us uneasily anticipate. It has nothing to do with the annual revisiting of memories some of us wish we could forget. For once, it has nothing to do with our families at all.

That is, our biological families. But it does have everything to do with the chosen family of gay men we adopted, or who adopted us.

To those of us whose definition of gay "success" is still defined by body size and shape, the holiday season can be a cruel time. With a month of parties providing limitless opportunities for gay men to show off their bodies, the holiday season also provides equal opportunity for those less buffed to bemoan the poor set of genes they inherited from their parents.

With the newfound freedoms gay men have achieved over the last 25 years, a proud—maybe too proud—declaration for the body beautiful has emerged as the anthem by which many gay men define their identity. No longer feeling the undeserved shame and stigma that haunted gay men for decades, today gay men celebrate their bodies, reclaiming it for themselves as women did at the dawn of the feminist era. For many gay men, this liberation has positively influenced their self identity.

But with this physical preoccupation has come an unfortunate consequence: the chronic, deflated, low self-esteem that stems from the hyper-obsession with body image.

Perhaps 25 years ago, being gay was a statement of personal and sexual freedom. Now it's no longer enough to be attracted to another man. Being gay means being huge, being big and ripped, and beefed and buffed and shredded, and ripped and juiced and chiseled.

Gay men take their cues from ridiculously sexual newspaper and magazine ads. They take their cues from the white blonde, hairless, 22-year-old porn star beamed onto every available TV screen in the corners of gay bars. To some of us, not to be bulked, bronzed and pumped means feeling the shame of being inferior and excluded. It's high school all over again.

> We're not 16 anymore, though we still behave like petty, immature narcissistic kids, thinking mostly of ourselves and how beautiful we are or want to be. We see the gestures, the silences, the avoidance and the rejections that tell us, 'Be buffed or be gone.'

But now we're not 16 anymore, though we still behave like petty, immature, narcissistic kids, thinking mostly of ourselves and how beautiful we are or want to be. We see this everywhere, from the gyms to sports clubs and AIDS service organizations. We see the gestures, the silences, the avoidance and the rejections that tell us, "Be buffed or be gone."

So what kind of message is this sending to a 19-year-old, struggling with his sexual identity and looking (in vain) for a healthy role model? That the only way this fellow will be welcomed into the "gay scene" is if his pecs are made of iron ore? He may be the nicest, most decent kid, but that counts for diddly in a "scene" that prizes cocks and not character.

These thoughts made it to words at the risk of sounding smug and condescending. Quite the contrary, I am the problem.

Where I was once that wholesome, idealistic 19-year-old nice kid, I too have become obsessed with working out; preoccupied with the imperfections of my body and the pursuit of things physical. I too have sadly become a willing consumer to the very same lethal gay marketing images that I criticize.

Am I ashamed? You bet. Am I a hypocrite? Yes. But a hypocrite finally willing to admit that despite years of denying that I am like the rest, I too am the embodiment of the superficial man that I so badly don't want to be.

I know there are men out there who could care less if their biceps aren't peaked, and their butt not bubbled. These are men I truly admire. These are the men who need to be role models to all the 19-year-old kids who desperately need to know that there is more to being gay than muscles and meat.

Lorne Opler is a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin and can be reached through this publication.

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The Atlanta Pride Committee Inc. (a 501C-3 non profit organization) needs your help!

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The High Museum of Art is located at 1280 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30309. Free tickets for Museum members call 404-733-4575. This exhibition is organized by The Museum of Modern Art in collaboration with the High Museum of Art. Media sponsorship is provided by The Atlanta Journal Constitution, AM 750, WSB, B98.5, and 104.1 WJZF-FM.

Media Alert

Mags Add Insult to Shepard's Injury

In the Dec. 21 issue of *Newsweek* magazine, reporter Mark Miller offered "The Final Days and Nights Of a Gay Martyr" and drew criticism from a gay media watchdog group for drawing a "gratuitous and unflattering picture of Matthew Shepard, with little or no valuable information or analysis added to the discussion surrounding his brutal death."

Quoting "[e]xclusive interviews with some of his closest friends," *Newsweek* claims "Shepard was drinking more and fighting a slow slide into despair, even though he was taking prescription drugs to control depression." The article relates a story of sexual assault abroad that a friend said Shepard had told him, and a near-suicide by Shepard by "taking all his meds."

Reporter Miller describes Shepard as "lonely and eager for human contact," and writes that he may have been an easy target because of the depression, drugs and alcohol. GLAAD criticized the portrayal as "a picture right out of Jacqueline Susann's 'Valley of the Dolls,' of a young man sliding towards his demise on a road strewn with emotional problems, substance abuse, and a 'party boy' mentality."

Meanwhile, the nation's other largest weekly newsmagazine faced an onslaught of anti-gay activity after Shepard took an early lead in on-line polling for *Time* magazine's "Man of the Year." After a grassroots, e-mail driven effort to attract on-line votes for Shepard for the award, given to the person who most "shook up the world" in 1998, Shepard initially outpaced all comers, including the next legitimate contender—President Clinton—by tens of thousands of votes.

At the same time, another group of grassroots on-line voters, fans of the professional wrestler "Mankind" (a.k.a. Mick Foley) unleashed a barrage of anti-gay sentiment in an effort to best Shepard in the voting. The surge left Foley ahead of Shepard by more than 130,000 votes, as of Monday. In 16th place, ahead even of President Clinton and with almost 2,000 votes, was Russell Henderson, one of the two Wyoming men charged with murdering Shepard.

To make matters worse, a phalanx of wrestling fans discovered a web bulletin board set up after Shepard's death—www.wiredstrategies.com/wwwboard—and bombarded readers there with a string of attacks belittling gays. The online invasion prompted the temporary closure of the site. "It was absolutely sickening," said John Aravosis, the site's administrator.

Time magazine new media editor Janice Castro told a newspaper covering the Shepard-Foley saga that the magazine had no plans to "enter the fray" over the on-line voting. She told the *San Jose Mercury News* that the magazine does try to cut off the bigger repeat voters, but *Time* doesn't interfere much with the process, she said.

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TIME
MEN OF THE YEAR
KENNETH STARR AND BILL CLINTON
THE IMPEACHMENT OF THE PRESIDENT 1998

"It's kind of like a big party," she told the newspaper. "Everyone is welcome, and some people who are annoying are going to come in for a little while."

Time ultimately selected Clinton and independent counsel Ken Starr as co-recipients of the "Man of the Year."

Source: GLAAD and staff reports

ACTION!info

Newsweek
Mark Whitaker, Managing Editor
251 West 57th St.
New York, NY 10019
fax: 212-445-4120
e-mail: letters@newsweek.com

Time
1271 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020
call: 212-522-1212

ESPN Spotlights Drama of the Gay Athlete

Sports cable station EPSN broadcast "Outside The Lines: The World of The Gay Athlete" on December 16, examining the issues facing professional athletes both in and out of the closet.

Among the topics covered by the special were: why are there no openly gay male players in major league sports? What's the difference between homophobia towards male athletes and female sports figures? How do rumors about an athlete's sexual orientation affect their career?

Source: GLAAD

ACTION!info

ESPN
Craig Lazarus, Producer
"Outside the Lines"
935 Middle Street
Bristol, CT 06010
fax: 860-585-2213

If you hear or see something in the media that you think ought to be included in the Media Alert, send your suggestion with as much detail as possible to editor@sovo.com, by fax to 404-876-2709, or to 1095 Zonolite Rd., Ste 100, Atlanta, GA 30306.

Or contact the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, 404-876-1398, 800-GAY-MEDIA, or e-mail: glaad@glaad.org.

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EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FIRST NIGHT ATLANTA

ADVANCE TICKETS ARE A BARGAIN: Buttons (er, tickets) are $7 in advance at all Ticketmaster locations including locations inside all Publix Super Markets and the Woodruff Arts Center box office. Ticketmaster's VINs (very important numbers) are (404) 249-6400 and http://www.ticketmaster.com. If you're younger than 6, baby, you may come for FREE. If you procrastinate, buttons (you know, tickets) cost $12 on First Night day, uh, on the day of First Night, uh, at the door, er, gate. Whatever.

FOOD? We've got you covered. Food vendors serve delicious fare all night long. Not only that, Midtown restaurants are open. You won't leave hungry. Thirsty either. First Night Atlanta concessionaires serve hot chocolate, gourmet coffee and Coca-Cola products (Well, this IS Atlanta.) Don't forget, alcoholic beverages are not available at any performance site, but you may have a toddy for the body at a nearby hotel or restaurant.

IF YOU'RE SMARTA, YOU'LL TAKE MARTA. MARTA'S ARTS CENTER STATION, on the north/south line, puts you in the heart of First Night Atlanta. It cost $3 round trip.

STORMY WEATHER: No biggie. All performances are inside. First Night is completely weatherproof.

FIRST NIGHT ATLANTA SURVIVAL TIPS

- Wear comfortable shoes.
- Dress for the outdoors in clothes you can easily shed indoors.
- Don't worry about rain - most events are indoors and buildings are close together.
- Purchase snacks and drinks at various food vendors.
- Let each person in your group pick his or her No. 1 attraction, then schedule to be sure you have plenty of time between the top choices.
- Go to the earliest performance you can of your top picks.
- Don't overdo. If you want to see the fireworks at midnight, start a little later, especially if you have kids.
- Plan a special time and place to meet your friends. Plan a backup just in case.
- March in the Georgia Power Procession of Light. Dance. Wear something that glows. Have fun.

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VISUAL: Pop art exhibit at the High Museum, Georgia-Pacific Resolution Tree, Atlanta College of Art exhibit, student art shows

76 TROMBONES AND YOU LEAD THE BIG GEORGIA POWER PROCESSION OF LIGHT

Be sure to register your costume/puppet in the Best Use of Light Award contest. Prizes are $50 for ages 12 and under; $100 for ages 13-18; $250 for adults; and $500 for groups of two or more.

If you want to be in the Georgia Power Procession of Light, assemble at 5:30 p.m., Dec. 31 at Peachtree and 14th streets. The Georgia Power Procession of Light winds down Peachtree Street from 6 to 6:45 p.m.

ADD YOUR RESOLUTION TO THE FIRST NIGHT TREE

An Atlanta visual artist created the organic resolution tree for First Night Atlanta. Write your New Year's resolution on leaf-shaped paper and watch the tree bloom as 1998 stretches into 1999. The Georgia-Pacific Resolution Tree takes root outside the AT&T office building in fair weather, inside the AT&T lobby if it rains.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

community

Black gays host Kwanzaa celebration

In the Life Atlanta will host a community ceremony commemorating the African-American celebration Kwanzaa this Saturday, Dec. 26, at 7:30 p.m. The event takes place at the Wyndham Hotel Midtown at 10th and Peachtree.

Admission is free but participants are asked to bring a toy, article of clothing or non-perishable food donation. ITLA Executive Director Darryl! Moch emphasized that sponsoring organizations will donate these items "as gay people" to needy individuals and groups.

"It's time for us to be visible and for [the larger black community] to know that we are a part of the community and we will no longer pretend we are not," Moch said.

Jacqueline Williams will speak and lead the Kwanzaa ceremony. Williams, who comes from Memphis, was an associate of Dr. Ron Karenga, who conceived Kwanzaa in the 1960s as a way to recreate and preserve landmarks principles that Africans were deprived of when they were enslaved.

Each of the seven days of Kwanzaa (Dec. 26-Jan. 1) is devoted to a key concept of African society: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

ITLA sponsors the annual Black Gay Pride gathering each Labor Day weekend. Moch said the Kwanzaa event and plans for ITLA to march in the Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Day parade are part of a plan to increase gay and lesbian visibility within the black community. "We have to be visible, not just for ourselves but also for those who are going to come behind us," he said.

Moch said that in his own discussions with older black heterosexuals, he has found many of them less homophobic than many people assume. They acknowledged that there had always been homosexuals among them, he said, noting that such men were sometimes nicknamed "baby brother," not because of their age but "because they were precious."

Also sponsoring the celebration are Unity Fellowship Church, Circle of Love Fellowship Church, Second Sunday, Fulami, Black Ink, Friends for Life, Sunshine Productions and Black Gay Men Together.

INFO

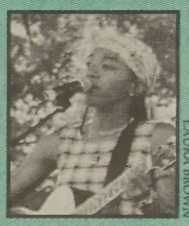
Kwanzaa celebration
In the Life Atlanta
Saturday, Dec. 26, 7:30 p.m.
Wyndham Hotel Midtown, 10th and Peachtree
404-872-6410

New Year's concert benefits NOW

A New Year's Day concert at Eddie's Attic will benefit the Atlanta chapter of the National Organization for Women.

Among artists scheduled to perform are Doria Roberts, Radiant City, Blake Guthrie, Adam Dorfman, Weak Lazy Liar, Alastor and lo-fi masters.

"It's a great line-up—mostly young folks and new acts," said club owner Eddie Owen, who has held a NOW benefit every year since opening the Decatur nightspot.



LAURA BROWN

Doria Roberts, shown here performing at Atlanta Pride, will be on stage Jan. 1 at Atlanta NOW's benefit.

The sponsoring organizations are Eddie's Attic and Saved by the Belle, an Atlanta agency offering graphic arts, production and administrative services.

The doors open at 6 p.m., and a silent auction in the club's pool room begins the evening. Linda Conway, a longtime NOW member and owner of Saved by the Belle, said some 40 to 60 items will be up for bid in the auction. At 7 p.m., the evening's entertainment gets underway.

For benefit information, call 404-377-4976. For information on Atlanta NOW, call 404-872-9988.

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COMMUNITY BUSINESS

Two Ricks offer 'In The Moment' gift artistry

by DREW PLANT

The owners of In The Moment: The Art of the Gift first envisioned their business "in the moment," while on the beach in Provincetown. That was in July 1997. By November of that year, they were operating a home-based gift basket business.

"We both had full-time jobs, but we both needed an alternative outlet for creativity—especially me," says Rick Robbins, a graphic arts professional who continues as a partner in a marketing communications firm.

He and In The Moment Partner Rick Sharber decided to "take the business to a new level" within a year and, two months ago, opened a storefront location in the historic Highland Row. Highland Row is the part of North Highland Avenue just south of Ponce de Leon; think "Café Diem."

Sharber, an occupational therapist who is Robbins' partner in life as well as the business, now devotes himself full time to the shop, which expanded from at-home gift baskets to "eclectic gifts and accessories for the home and garden," ranging from candles, cards and other very affordable gift items to a handcrafted Mexican table that sells for more than $1,200.

Robbins is especially proud of the fact that much of In The Moments' inventory has local connections, and hopes that trend will only grow within the store.

"We carry the most complete line of Bella Cucina gourmet foods of anyone in the city, we feature the black-and-white photography of local artist Mary Anne Mitchell, fun pillows by a local artisan and even our line of Mexican-crafted furniture and home accessories come from a company that is owned by someone here in Atlanta," he says. "In fact, even our sign out front was done by a local artist—Duane Georges."

The shop also carries personal care products from handmade soaps that can be purchased by the ounce to bath oils and other feel-good, smell-good items. Then, there are lamps, a line of Museum of Modern Art gift items like frames and clocks, and fresh flowers and small animal sculptures.

The tiny, narrow, former flower shop seems to contain more than is possible for the space, and Sharber says that's the idea.

"We've had a great response to the range and combination of products we have, and wonderful reactions to the appearance of the store," he says. "That feels good, too, because this is our brain child, and we've grown it into something we like and that our customers seem to like."

Rick Robbins echoes the other Rick. "We took a raw space in an area that's really a diverse pocket of alternative shopping and created something fun. The name has gotten an especially good response—it brings people in. They see what we envisioned," he says.

The "diverse pocket" Robbins mentions includes an antiques store, a 1950s retro shop, an African art gallery and store, and a working gallery where an artist-in-residence produces her own jewelry-art.

Robbins says the businesses' neighbors are even great about coordinating. "We all try to ensure that we carry our own areas of focus and that we don't overlap too much," he says. "And we've done things like a collaborative holiday stroll, where everyone on the row had an open house, we had coupons in our ads and produced a flier together."

A web-site is in the offing for early in the new year as well. Anyone surfing the "Net" will then be able to be "in the moment," ordering custom gift baskets and anything else from the store.

DREW PLANT

In less than a year, Rick Sharber (left) and Rick Robbins nurtured their home-based business into a full-blown retail store.

INFO

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1240 Poplar Grove, N.E.
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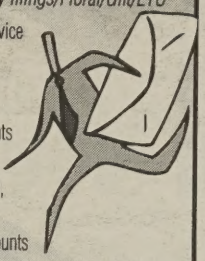

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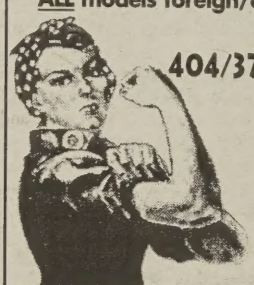

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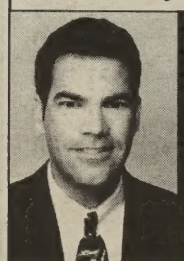

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Past Out 1924

THIS WEEK IN GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY

by DAVID BIANCO

First gay rights group busted as 'strange sex cult'

Almost 30 years before Harry Hay and his friends founded the Mattachine Society, a non-profit corporation called the Society for Human Rights paid $10 for a charter from the state of Illinois and took its place as the earliest documented gay rights organization in the United States. The written purpose of the Chicago-based group was so vague that the government clerk who processed the application for a charter undoubtedly had no idea that he was helping to make queer history.

The guiding light behind the Society was Henry Gerber (1892-1972), whose family had emigrated from Bavaria to Chicago in 1913. Immediately after World War I, Gerber served with the U.S. Army's occupation forces in Germany and there became acquainted with the work of German gay rights pioneers

Soon after he returned to Chicago, where a gay subculture was forming, Gerber set out to achieve what he called "homosexual emancipation." During breaks from his job with the post office, Gerber drafted a declaration of purpose for a proposed Society for Human Rights. Gerber set down as the Society's main intent "to promote and protect the interests of people who by reason of mental and physical abnormalities are abused and hindered in the legal pursuit of happiness."

Once he'd written the declaration, Gerber had a hard time finding anyone to sign it. He finally talked a half-dozen of his friends into working with him, and their seven names appeared together on the 1924 charter.

As part of the group's mission, Gerber hoped to institute a series of educational lectures for gay men on sexual self-control, "especially urging against the seduction of adolescents," he wrote. He also wanted to publish a newsletter called *Friendship and Freedom* to keep gay people informed about the group's activities.

Gerber soon found that gay men also hesitated to donate money to the group or add their names to its mailing list. He wrote and mimeographed two issues of *Friendship and Freedom* by himself and financed them out of his own pocket. Because of the financial drain on Gerber, only two issues were ever published. They were not widely circulated, and no copies of *Friendship and Freedom* remain.

Gerber's greatest challenge as a gay activist came in the summer of 1925. Although most members of the Society were, like Gerber, bachelors, the vice-president of the organization, Al Meininger, had a wife and children. When Meininger's wife found out about his double life, she reported him to a social worker, alleging that he and his friends performed "strange doings" in front of the children. An article appeared on the front page of the *Chicago Examiner* under the lurid headline "Strange Sex Cult Exposed."

As part of the group's mission, Gerber hoped to institute a series of educational lectures for gay men on sexual self-control, "especially urging against the seduction of adolescents."

The three officers of the Society—Gerber, Meininger, and an itinerant preacher named John Graves—were arrested and prosecuted. The policemen who raided Gerber's apartment at 2 a.m. took his typewriter, personal diaries, and all the files of the Society. But because the arrests were made without a warrant, a judge eventually dismissed the case, and the three men were released.

Though Gerber got his typewriter and the Society's papers back, his diaries were never returned. They were confiscated by postal inspectors who were investigating if *Friendship and Freedom* had violated the federal law against sending obscene material through the mail.

Gerber subsequently lost his post office job, and his ordeal marked the end of his fledgling gay rights group. Disheartened, he moved to New York City and re-enlisted in the Army, serving for another 17 years.

David Bianco, M.A. is the author of "Modern Jewish History for Everyone." He can be reached care of this publication or at AriBianco@aol.com. For more Past Out, visit www.gay.net.

INFO

Katz, Jonathan Ned

"The Chicago Society for Human Rights." In "Gay American History: Lesbians and Gay Men in the U.S.A., A Documentary History," rev. ed. (Meridian, 1992).

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community calendar

thursday, dec. 24

Grant Park-Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Candlelight communion, 7:30 pm. Joint service with Gentle Spirit Christian Church. 575 Boulevard SE. 404-627-6221

St. Mark United Methodist Church. Musical candlelight service, 6 pm & 11 pm. Corner of Peachtree and 5th. 404-873-2636

All Saints MCC. Candlelight communion, 11 pm. 957 N Highland Ave. 404-524-9090

Christ Covenant MCC. "Christmas at the Ritz," downtown Ritz-Carlton, 5 pm. Candlelight service, 11 pm at the church. 109 Hibernia Ave, Decatur. 404-373-2933

First Existentialist Congregation. "Tales of Magic, Miracles and Mysteries," 11 pm. 470 Candler Park Dr. 404-378-5570

First MCC of Atlanta. Family service and birthday party for Jesus, 5:30 pm. Candlelight communion, 11 pm. 1379 Tullie Rd. 404-325-4143

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. Family service, 5:30 pm. Christmas eve service, 7:30 pm. 1911 Cliff Valley Way, NE. 404-634-5134

friday, dec. 25

St. Aelred's Parish Ecumenical Catholic Church. 10 am. Bishop Stephen Sinclair celebrates pontifical mass. Virginia-Highland Baptist Church, basement chapel, 743 Virginia Ave, 404-315-6544

Congregation Bet Haverim Shabat service. 8 pm. Atlanta Friends Meeting House, 701 W Howard Ave, Decatur. 770-642-3467

saturday, dec. 26

Sts. Sergius & Bacchus Mission. 5:30 pm. Divine Liturgy. Basement chapel, Virginia Highland Baptist Church, Virginia at Ponce de Leon Pl. 404-315-6544

Community Empowerment Breakfast. 10-11 am. Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, Piedmont at 10th. 404-607-0082

Atlanta Team Tennis Association Open Play. Social tennis for players at all levels. Piedmont Park, 2-6 pm. 770-621-2699

Front Runners Meet at 8 am in parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

Women's Discussion Group. 6-8 pm. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 71 12th St. 404-876-5372

Parenting Group. 4 pm. For gay and lesbian parents. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 71 12th St. 404-876-5372

sunday, dec. 27

Grant Park-Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Sunday school, 9:30 am. Worship, 11 am. 575 Boulevard SE. 404-627-6221

Atlanta Friends. Quaker worship services, 10 am. Atlanta Friends Meeting House, 701 W Howard Ave, Decatur. 404-377-2474

St. Mark United Methodist Church. Communion, 8:30 am; Church school, 10 am. Worship, 9 am and 11:15 am. Corner of Peachtree and 5th. 404-873-2636

Trinity United Methodist Church. Sunday school, 9:30 am; Worship, 10:45 am. 265 Washington St. 404-659-6236

Pilgrimage United Church of Christ. All are welcome. Worship: 10 am. Church school: 11:15 am. 3755 Sandy Plains Rd, Marietta. 770-971-0007

Congregation Bet Haverim. 9:30-11:45 am. Reconstructionist Jewish education for adults and children. Friends School of Atlanta, 121 Sam's St, Decatur. 404-636-2702

Unity Fellowship of Christ Church. Worship service, 3 pm. 828 W Peachtree St. 404-752-5030

Abundant Grace Community Church. Worship service, 7 pm. 743 Virginia Ave. 404-815-0036

All Saints MCC. Worship service, 11 am. 957 N Highland Ave. 404-524-9090

Christ Covenant MCC. Worship services, 9 am & 11 am. 109 Hibernia Ave, Decatur. 404-373-2933

Circle of Grace Community Church. Worship service, 6 pm. Atlanta Friends Meeting House, 701 W Howard Ave, Decatur. 404-624-1140

First Existentialist Congregation. Celebration of life, 11 am. 470 Candler Park Dr. 404-378-5570

First MCC of Atlanta. Worship services11 am, 7:30 pm. Sign language interpretation provided. 1379 Tullie Rd. 404-325-4143

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. Services: 9:30 am, 11:15 am. Coffee/bookstore, 10:30-11:15 am. Childcare and religious education provided. 1911 Cliff Valley Way, NE. 404-634-5134

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Circle of Love Fellowship of Atlanta. Worship service, 10 am. 778 Rays Rd Ste 108, Stone Mountain. 770-469-6419

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marietta. All-inclusive service, 10:30 am. Childcare and religious education provided. 377 Henry Dr. 770-528-9542

American Apostolic Catholic Church—Parish of St. Mary's Dormition. Services, 9 & 11 am. 2429 Woodacres Rd. 404-982-0265

Gainesville Society of Religious Science. Sunday services, 11 am. Lymann Hall, Gainesville Civic Center, 830 Green St, Gainesville. 404-897-1026

New Church at Unity Midtown 11 am. Non-traditional, open-minded spiritual community. Academy of Medicine, 875 W Peachtree. 404-874-1937

Atlanta Church of Religious Science. Services: 10:30 am. All are welcome! Woodruff Arts Center, 180 Peachtree St. 404-355-3767

Gentle Spirit Christian Church. Worship, 7 pm. Independent church serving GLBT community. 575 Boulevard SE. 404-627-5500

Ga Mts Unitarian Universalist Church. Services 11 am. 439 S Park St, Dahlonega. 706-864-0661

Ballroom Dancing Lessons. 2:30 pm. Singles or couples. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. 1911 Cliff Valley Way, NE. 404-876-3950

Dog Hikers of GA. 10 am. All hikers with or without dogs welcome. 770-992-2362

Grief Support Group. 5:15 pm. Abundant Grace Community Church, 743 Virginia Ave. Call Dot 770-923-5714

Water Polo. 11 am. Atlanta Rainbow Trout. Ga Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

monday, dec. 28

Womyn Loving Womyn Therapy Group. Now accepting members; call Joi. Indigo Arts Gallery & Playhouse, 1850 DeKalb Ave. 404-299-9542

HEAL Atlanta. 7:30 pm. Group rejects HIV=AIDS hypothesis and antiviral treatment. 828 W Peachtree. 770-908-6164

Risk Reduction Support Group. 4 pm. Open group. Positive Impact, 828 W Peachtree St, #200. 404-885-9040

Long Term Survivors Support Group. 6 pm. Closed group. Positive Impact, 828 W Peachtree St, #200. 404-885-9040

Creative Expression Workshop. 7-11 pm. Aware House, 260 Howard St #3. 404-371-9560

Positively Living Support Group. 7:30 pm. AIDS Survival Project, 828 W Peachtree St, NW. 404-874-7926

Atlanta Venture Sports Bowling. 8:30 pm. Express Lanes, 1936 Piedmont Circle. 404-242-4899

Brothers Back 2 Back. 6-8 pm. African-American male HIV/AIDS support group. 828 W Peachtree St NW. 770-416-7062

Men's Rap Group. 7 pm. Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Center, 71 12th St. 404-876-5372

AIDS Coalition of Northeast Ga Support Groups. 6:30 pm. Free groups for people living with HIV/AIDS and those who love them. Call for location. 706-542-2437

Metaphysical Group. Focus on healing, self-empowerment. Call 770-447-5861

Potter's House. Noon. Day program. Absolutely Positive+ Inc. 770-642-6646

Infected Men's Group. 7 pm. Absolutely Positive+ Inc. 770-642-6646

tuesday, dec. 29

Spirituality Group. 7 pm. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 71 12th St. 404-876-5372

Bereavement Support Group. 7 pm. Open group. Positive Impact, 828 W Peachtree St, #200. 404-885-9040

YouthPride. 8-9:30 pm. Young adult support group 18-24). YouthPride Center, 1394 McLendon Ave. 404-223-6780

Relationships, Workplace & Community. 7-11 pm. Open discussion. Aware House, 260 Howard St #3. 404-371-9560

Volunteer Meeting. 4-6 pm. Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund. 1447 Peachtree St, Ste 1004. 404-897-1880

Open AA Meeting. 8 pm. Ga Baptist Medical Center's Newton House, 320 Parkway Dr. 800-651-8191

Women's Support Group. 5:15 pm. Closed group, call for admittance. AIDS Survival Project, 828 W Peachtree St, NW. 404-874-7926

ACT UP. 7:30 pm. 828 W Peachtree St. 404-874-6782

Hotlanta Basketball. 8:30 pm. Pick-up games. 404-298-8958

PWA Support Group. 7:30 pm. AIDGwinnett, 240 Oak St, Ste 107, Lawrenceville. 770-962-8396

Hotlanta Volleyball Association. 7-10 pm. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

Infected/Affected Support Group. 6:30 pm. Absolutely Positive+ Inc. 770-642-6646

wednesday, dec. 30

People Living With AIDS Support Group. 7 pm. Open group. Positive Impact, 828 W Peachtree St, #200. 404-885-9040

Caregivers Support Group. 7 pm. Open group. Positive Impact, 828 W Peachtree St, #200. 404-885-9040

Peer-led HIV Support Information Group. 7 pm. Open group. Positive Impact, 828 W Peachtree St, #200. 404-885-9040

YouthPride. 5:30 pm. Youth council meeting. 6:30 pm. Teen group (13-18). 8 pm. Young adult discussion group (18-24). YouthPride Center, 1394 McLendon Ave. 404-223-6780

Front Runners 6:30 pm. Meet at parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

First MCC of Atlanta. Worship service. 7:30 pm. 1379 Tullie Rd. 404-325-4143

Circle of Love Fellowship of Atlanta. 7:30 pm. Bible study. 778 Rays Rd Ste 108, Stone Mountain. 770-469-6419

St. Mark United Methodist Church. Dinner, 6:15 pm; Program, 7 pm. Corner of Peachtree and 5th. 404-873-2636

HIV+ Support Group. 7-8:30 pm. Richardson Health Center, 445 Winn Way, Rm 260, Decatur. 404-508-7788

Spiritual Growth Group. 7:30 pm. Abundant Grace Community Church, 743 Virginia Ave. 404-815-0036

Potter's House. Noon. Day program. Absolutely Positive+ Inc. 770-642-6646

New Beginnings. 7 pm. For newly diagnosed HIV+. Absolutely Positive Inc. 770-642-6646

Alternative Worship Experience. 7 pm. Welcoming congregation hosts casual worship service. Pilgrimage United Church of Christ, 3755 Sandy Plains Rd, Marietta. 770-971-0007

upcoming/ongoing

Free Investment Seminar. Call for dates, reservations. JP Turner & Co, 450 Tower Place. 404-479-8315

Auditions. Jan 5-12. Funny... That Way! seeks actors, musicians, techs for queer musical parody "Comealot." 404-893-3344

Slipping & Sliding. Begins Jan 6. Six-week workshop on sex for gay men. AID Atlanta. 404-885-6800 x 278

Potluck Supper. Jan 9. Northlake Alliance of Gays/Lesbians & Straights. 404-325-3985

Volunteer Ushers Needed. Horizon Theatre Co, Little Five Points. 404-523-1477

Team Forming. Women's roller hockey. Molly, 404-622-4776

DA Mac. New social group for masculine African-American men "in the life." Membership required. 770-705-6830

Dance/Exercise Classes. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of ATL. 404-633-5243

Volunteers Sought. For public sex environment research. AID Atlanta. 404-885-6800 ext. 278

Volunteers Sought. Retired professionals sought to help with Not Merely Players troupe. 404-872-8940

Support Group Forming. For lesbian and bisexual women sexually assaulted by other women. No charge. Debbie, DeKalb Rape Crisis Center. 404-377-1429

Free Breast Exam Reminder Cards. Call Greater Atlanta Hadassah. 404-256-5007

Choir Forming. For African-American lesbians and gays. Call James. 770-996-1307

Interns Sought. Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, Washington, DC. 202-842-8679

Volunteers Needed. AIDS Education Services for Minorities. 404-753-2900

Volunteers Needed. Tutors for Project Read. 404-522-READ

Volunteers Needed. Project Open Hand; to deliver meals to people with AIDS in the Atlanta area. 404-872-2707 ext 117

Volunteers Needed. For Visiting Nurse Association's Alzheimer's Care Program. 404-869-3070

Volunteers Needed. Margaret Mitchell House. 999 Peachtree St. 404-249-7012

Volunteers Needed. Michael C Carlos Museum, Emory U. 404-727-0516

Volunteers Needed. Peachtree Hospice. 770-451-1903

National Youth Advocacy Coalition. Jan 22-24. 4th annual regional conference. UNC Chapel Hill, NC. 800-962-8519

11th Annual Gulf Coast Womyn's Festival. April 1-4. Camp Sister Spirit, Ovett, Miss. 601-344-1411

Submissions Sought. Deadline: April 30. Works by breast cancer survivors dealing with fear of recurrence. SASE to Anthology: Pioneer Valley Breast Cancer Network, 30 S Main St, Haydenville, MA 01039.

International Gay & Lesbian Aquatic Championships. June 17-20, 1999. Ga Tech Aquatics Center. 404-286-6131

Dignity/USA Convention. Aug 5-8, 1999. Denver. 303-388-5733

Occasions

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Holiday Greetings

"To my 'GRR8BEAR.' Here's to the joy of spending an even better new year with you, growing, healing and loving. I love you SweetBear. Your 'gr8cub,' SweetCub."

SHER PRUITT

Happy birthday on Dec. 29 to Charlie Brown, "the bitch of the South" and mistress of Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret at Backstreet.

Birthdays

Happy birthday to the great wit Quentin Crisp on Christmas Day.

Happy birthday to former *SoVo* employee Robert Pullen on Dec. 29.

Happy birthday to glam rock diva Marianne Faithfull and to Mary Tyler Moore on Dec. 29.

Happy birthday to Don. D. of Black & White Men Together/Atlanta on Dec. 30.

Happy birthday to rocker Patti Smith on Dec. 30.

Happy birthday to Tracey Ullman on Dec. 30.

Best wishes to the Atlanta Front Runners celebrating birthdays: Mike on Dec. 24; Arnold and George on Dec. 27; and Bill on Dec. 29.

Best wishes to the Atlanta Rainbow Trout celebrating birthdays: Christiano P. and Joe S. on Dec. 24; David D. on Dec. 25; Herb M. on Dec. 26; Mark K. on Dec. 28; and Bryan B., Alan H. and Lynn C. on Dec. 29.

"On Dec. 25, Mona Bennett of the Atlanta Harm Reduction Center celebrates 10 years as an Atlantan. Best wishes and much love, Mona!"

E-mail your special occasions to Southern Voice at occasions@sovo.com. Call: 404-876-1819. Fax: 404-876-2709. Write: Southern Voice/Occasions, 1095 Zonolite Rd., Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30306. NOTE: You must include a phone number. All occasions are verified by telephone.

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3: thrifty fun in the sun 4: A tremendous value for $199. (Can become a verb or adjective after test drive) Also see: FUN.

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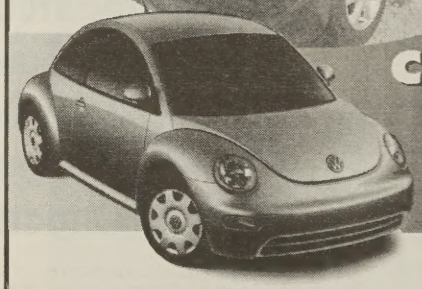

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SOUTHERN VOICE • DECEMBER 24/1998

Party Like It's 1999

New Year's Eve with The Village People and Other Best Bets

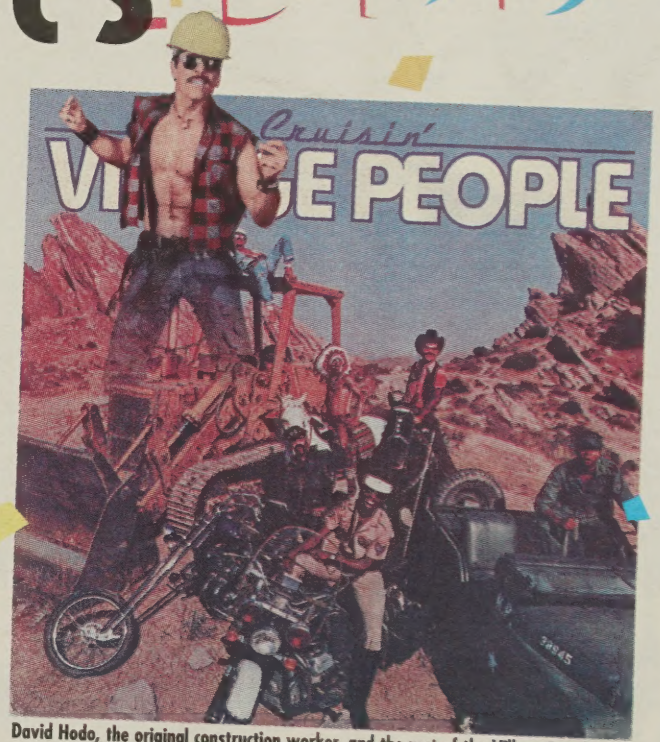
by ANDREW ALEXANDER

This New Year's Eve offers plenty of opportunity to celebrate in Atlanta, not least of which is the appearance of the Village People at The Tabernacle.

Village People fans can expect some hardcore, old school, '70s-style, hard-hat-wearing disco. "I don't think our act has changed a lot since the 70s," says David 'Construction Worker' Hodo of the Village People. "We're just 21- years older."

Hodo says that the Village People do not lip-synch on stage, although they perform with recorded music tracks now instead of a band. "The sound is better with the tracks. But we've retained a lot of the old choreography because a lot of it has the flavor of the '70s. There are times when we thought about updating it, but we decided to just leave it the way it is."

Are the Village People gay? It sounds a bit like asking if the Pope is Catholic, but Hodo maintains that some of the members selected by French record producer Jacques Morali to form the group happened to be straight.



David Hodo, the original construction worker, and the rest of the Village People will take you back to the '70s at The Tabernacle on New Year's Eve.

"The group started out with a gay sensibility, and it was definitely for the gay clubs," says Hodo, "but not all the members are gay. It was never all gay men in the group. There was a time when the straight men in the group were irritated by our reputation, to say the least ... But we're a party band really. We're neither Republican nor Democrat. We're a group of men who sing together, gay and straight, black and white, and everything in-between. We've been singing and working together for 21 years. Which is more than I can say for most of the world."

Hodo says that performing with the band and doing the elaborate choreography over and over can sometimes be pretty dangerous.

"In the name of the Village People, I have about four different scars on my body," he says. "It's a very active act. I split my head wide open on stage in Charlotte at an amusement park once."

In addition to the dangers of performing, the band has weathered some pretty difficult times, including a cultural backlash against disco music in the '80s. Although they seemed to disappear from the public spotlight during the anti-disco years, the band has remained together except for a brief 18-month break-up in 1986-87.

"There wasn't really much you could do about it," says Hodo about the dark post-disco days. "It was all these fading hippies finding themselves obso-

➢ Continued on Page 55

The Roches, with their outstanding harmonies, come back to Atlanta for First Night.

The Unblinking Eye

Web cams provide a peep-hole into personal lives

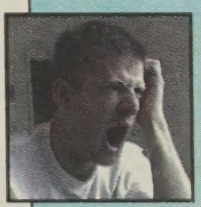
by MICHAEL ALVEAR

Imagine someone constantly peeping through your window. They can see everything you do—from picking your nose to eating your lunch.

Now imagine encouraging these Peeping Toms to keep peeping.

It's the newest wrinkle on the web—inviting strangers to an up-close-and-personal look at your daily life. It's accomplished by hooking up a golf-ball sized camera to a computer. When web surfers punch up your site they get a snapshot of what you're doing. The snapshot is "refreshed" every 30 seconds.

The most prominent gay site for web voyeurs probably belongs to Washington D.C's Sean Patrick (www.seanpatricklive.com), who claims 75,000-100,000 hits a day. Why would anyone want complete strangers looking at them morning, noon and night?



Sean Patrick leaves the window into his world open 24-hours-a-day.

"I view this merely as a method of self expression," Patrick said. "I originally started this site as a place to present my work." The 26-year-old Patrick became interested by the challenge of web technology and wanted to see if a camera focused on an individual could sustain interest as a kind of "virtual personal photo fest."

"I originally wanted to create this free community, a place where people could sound off to one another," Patrick said.

While most viewers seem to be benign voyeurs, he occasionally gets eyebrow-raising requests. Somebody from Utah asked that he wear a specific article of clothing and return it, worn.

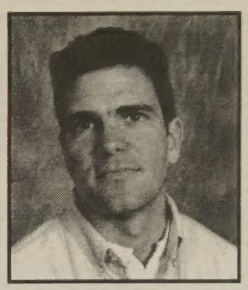
Patrick didn't reply. He tries to keep his Internet life and his everyday life somewhat separated. He does not usually respond to mail, e-mail or otherwise, and receives other mail through a post office box. Patrick has even gotten his friends involved.

➢ Continued on Page 50

Mark your calendar,
there's an
eclipse
coming in January

Nightmoves

SCENES FROM ATLANTA NIGHTLIFE



by DAVID BOSWELL

Bubba gets lit

There are many time-honored holiday traditions that bring us together during the days of December. Though some of these traditions are centuries old and others have been with us for just a few years, they all had to start somewhere.

Atlanta just got its newest holiday tradition with the first annual **LIGHTING OF BUBBA** to celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

"All you have to say is Happy Chaka Kahn, and that covers it all," explained Bubba D. Licious, hostess and namesake of the event.

Part serious, part silly, The Lighting of Bubba featured the talents of some this town's finest performers like Greg Hucks, Pearl Lakesha Long, Lynn Loosier, Valerie Payton, and Leigh McClelland, all to benefit the **GEORGIA EQUALITY PROJECT** and the **SAINT MARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH DRAMA MINISTRY**.

SHER PRUITT

Bubba D. Licious shows off her dazzling illumination at the first-ever Lighting of Bubba.

Before the musical portion of the program began, the 500 or so attendees on hand took over the **COUNTRY PLACE RESTAURANT** at Colony Square, which generously donated their space, the food and the liquor just for this event.

After all the eatin', drinkin', and socializin' at the Country Place, it was time to move the party to the Grand Staircase of Colony Square for what became a sort of Academy Award presentation of Christmas pageants.

Each holiday song was introduced and explained by local celebrities, including Star 94's Tom Sullivan, *Atlanta Magazine*'s Meg Reggie, Peachtree Morning's Evelyn Mimms, from *Southern Voice* the incomparable Dixon Taylor and your's truly, and from the Elton John AIDS Foundation **BARRON SEGAR**.

Segar was wearing one of the six Armani jackets, this one green suede, that he bought at the last **ELTON'S CLOSET FUND-RAISER**, the event where the singer's very slightly used clothes are sold to raise money for the foundation.

Backstage at The Lighting of Bubba, Segar told me this very popular event will take place again real soon. Stay tuned for details.

Meanwhile on stage, City Councilmember **CATHY WOOLARD** was presenting Bubba, one of the city's hardest working volunteers, with an official proclamation from the city for all of his hard work for charity.

After all the songs were sung, all the presentations were made and Bubba was lit, the money was counted and $3,200 was raised for GEP, according to Board Co-Chair Judy Wells. St. Mark's Johnathan Smith reports that the St. Mark Drama Ministry received $3,050.

Other Holiday happenings that weekend included **RAG RIBBON RAINBOW'S 7TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW**, called "Hope and Healing," held at **COMMON GROUND**. A portion of the proceeds from this art show went to benefit Atlanta's only day facility for people living with HIV/AIDS.

"This our favorite exhibit of the year because we get to be here in this house instead of the galleries that we're used to," said Lou Sparks of Rag Ribbon Rainbow.

Art work of every imaginable form filled each room of the 70-year-old house on Juniper Street. Art was provided by many local artists, as well as by Common Ground participants.

One touching piece was entitled "International Auto Show" from Eric Allen Brown. Its inscription read, "I have lived with the virus for 18 years now, but every day that God wakes me up, I am blessed."

"The best thing about this event is that even if we don't raise huge amounts of money everyone who leaves here leaves with information about our facility," said Jon Santos of Common Ground.

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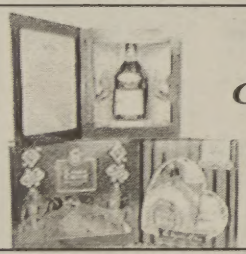

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On Stage

THEATER REVIEWS

by JIM FARMER

Spirit of Christmas chaos

The most alluring gift under the tree last holiday season turned out to be Push-Push's comic soufflé "Inspecting Carol." Well, the gang has done it again—their sequel (of sorts) **EXPECTING CAROL** is the jolliest piece of theater around this year, too.

A farce about Dickens' highly lampoonable "A Christmas Carol" and the making of the production at a small, financially-strapped theater, "Expecting Carol" starts with the company's actors frantically rehearsing, scrambling to prepare their Christmas Eve version of the Yuletide favorite.

Since their holiday play is always the financial hit of the season, the fictional company is counting on it to keep them afloat. But this year, the cast and crew are near the breaking point. Many performers aren't available, meaning several in the cast must do double duty and improvise around roles that can't be filled.

Prima donna actor P. Thomas Bevis (Brad Davidorf) plots ways the company can stage the play, and ways he can turn Ebenezer into a role of MacBethian proportions. Director B.J. Demuth (Mike Driscoll) lets Bevis run with his ideas, constantly coming up with his own methods to make the show click. (When DeMuth later realizes that his audience is Jewish, he orders his actors to leave out all Christmas references, not wanting to offend anyone).

As the final rehearsal begins, pregnant lesbian stage manager Marianne (Stacy Melich) is recruited to play one of the heavier characters. The assistant stage manager (Matt Fowler) is excited to have a speaking part, but refuses to read the script. As worried marketing manager Moira (Tara Ochs) paces around, Martha (Anne Towns) tries to keep peace. Martha is a perpetually good-hearted woman whose solution to everything is a good Christmas carol.

Finally, hours before the curtain, queeny Richard (Brad Brooks) returns, suitcase in hand, demanding to have his Cratchit character back and not let anyone else ruin it.

Breezily directed by Tim Habeger, "Expecting Carol" is a goofy, amusing satire. It's based roughly on last year's show, with some of the same jokes and situations. A lot of the time, the comedy can be overly manic, with too much going on to absorb. It's also too keen on "inside humor" about the inner workings of "the theatah." Also, a subplot involving the sudden appearance of a friend (Rob Nixon) from Devis' past isn't scoped out well.

Simply put, though, there isn't a funnier play around now. As was the case with last year's show, "Expecting Carol's" jovial nature is the perfect medicine for those suffocating on sugarplum fairies and holiday good cheer.

SCOTT WILLIAMS

The manic cast of "Expecting Carol" puts on the funniest Dickens this season.

Writers Rob Nixon and Habeger throw in the kitchen sink and more here, and the majority of it works. "Expecting Carol" really hits its groove as the actors put on their impromptu performance of "A Christmas Carol," a laugh-out-loud 10 minutes, complete with unlearned lines, who's-gonna-play-who fights, labor pains, flatulence by Tiny Tim and whatever else can go wrong.

One of the few complaints about Push-Push Theatre is its use of stock performers. Hence, the utilization of some new faces here is refreshing. Davidorf's impersonation of Scrooge is hilarious, but revealing his ultimate "take" on the character would ruin one of the play's funnier surprises.

"Expecting Carol" is the latest in what has been a sturdy '98-'99 lineup for Push-Push. These guys haven't been around long, but they've certainly dug themselves a nice little niche and a sound reputation. If you've never seen one of their shows, this is a perfect intro, especially if the normal sugary Yuletide offerings aren't your bag.

INFO

"Expecting Carol"
Though Jan. 3
Push-Push Theater
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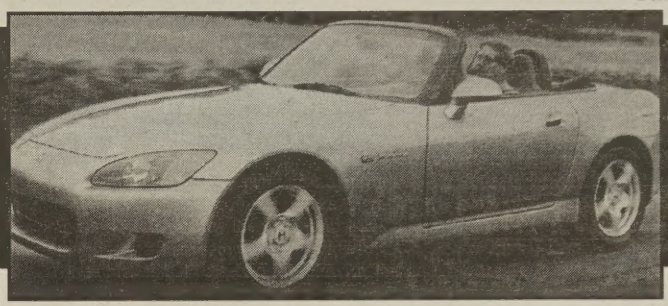

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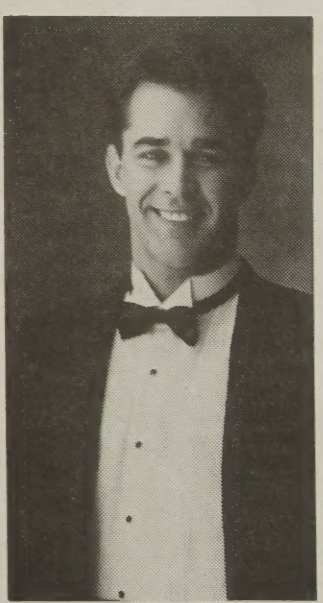

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On Screen

FILM, VIDEO & TV REVIEWS

by KIMBERLY YUTANI

'AbFab' airhead delivers with big pipes

LITTLE VOICE is an unspectacular film with a spectacular lead performance. Were it not for Jane Horrocks, who reprises her London stage role as the character Little Voice (LV for short) in the celluloid version of Jim Cartwright's play, this film could be overlooked.

Directed by Mark Herman, who also did last year's "Brassed Off," "Little Voice" is set in the working-class, Northern seaside town of Scarborough. Horrocks plays LV, a quiet young woman who lives with her obnoxious, tacky, foul-mouthed mom (Brenda Blethyn of "Secrets & Lies").

Traumatized by her father's untimely death, LV hides in her room and speaks to no one. She listens to her father's record collection, which consists of divas like Judy Garland, Shirley Bassey, Ethel Mermen and Marilyn Monroe. Meanwhile, Mom hits the pubs, drinks and hunts for men. She considers it an accomplishment when she snags (and shags) Ray Say (Michael Caine), a local talent agent.

It's kismet when an equally painfully shy telephone repairman, Billy (Ewan McGregor), comes to fix their household phone. Neither Billy nor LV can muster a peep to each other, but their quirky attraction is there. And as if we didn't know they're a bashful match made in heaven, to match LV's obsession with her records, Billy has a flock of pigeons he tends to.

Then LV's big secret finally emerges: She sings beautifully and can replicate the voices of the recording divas she listens to nonstop. The main point of amazement is that Horrocks herself, who is best known for playing the spritely, dimwitted Bubble on "Absolutely Fabulous," is doing her own singing and can sound exactly like Monroe, Dietrich and Garland (her singing is also featured on the movie's soundtrack).

Ray and LV's mom immediately jump on the fact that they can exploit LV's rare talent, and they coax her into doing a show at a local club.

There's so much riding on Horrocks' performance, and she delivers. But, however much Horrocks can sing like the legends, unfortunately the direction and editing deflate the magic and excitement from LV's coming out gig, which ends up looking forced and flat.

Also, midway through, the film takes a nasty turn, casting merciless strikes at an overweight, sad-sack neighbor (Annette Badland) and demanding an embarrassing performance out of Caine.

"Little Voice" also gets progressively creepier. LV's attachment to her dead father gets most disturbing by show time. The only thing that will get her to perform the song is her father's apparition, which encourages her to sing flirtatious ditties like "I Wanna Be Loved By You."

No matter the faults of "Little Voice", the film is most remarkable for its lead performances. In a role tailor-made for her by playwright Jim Cartwright, Horrocks, teeming with talent, is terrific as LV the introvert and LV the diva. Ewan McGregor, so recently seen as an Iggy Pop-like figure in "Velvet Goldmine," turns in a sweet performance, proving just how versatile he is. Meanwhile, able performers Blethyn and Caine go all out on their ugly roles—sadly, to lukewarm results.

INFO

Little Voice

Directed and adapted by Mark Herman. Based on the stage play by Jim Cartwright entitled, "The Rise and Fall of Little Voice."

With: Michael Caine, Brenda Blethyn, Jim Broadbent, Ewan McGregor, JaneHorrocks, Annette Badland, Philip Jackson.

Miramax Films. Rated R. 99 minutes.

Opens Dec. 25 at the Tara.

LAURIE SPARHAM

Jane Horrocks' performance is spectacular as Little Voice. The film uses Horrocks' own impressive voice in the live performance sequences.

Now Playing

GODS AND MONSTERS is writer-director Bill Condon's film of the final days of gay Hollywood director James Whale's life. Ian McKellen plays the director of "Frankenstein" and "Show Boat" who strikes up a friendship with his attractive gardener, played by Brendan Fraser. It's about an older man's unrequited desire for a younger man, and the complex, poignant friendship that develops despite class, age and sexuality differences. The film boasts a stunning performance from McKellen, who won best actor awards from the L.A. Critics and National Board of Review, and a surprisingly subtle one from Fraser.

PETER MOUNTAIN

Last minute gay(-ish) holiday gifts

The DVD of "Wild Things" or anything by Radley Metzger ("The Alley Cats," "Therese and Isabelle," "Score," et al.) on VHS, or for the Francophile, "Irma Vep" on VHS or DVD. Books: film critic Judith Halberstam's "Female Masculinity," Bruce LaBruce's "The Reluctant Pornographer," and for your favorite glitter rocker, Todd Haynes' script "Velvet Goldmine." Music: Shudder to Think's "High Art" and "First Love, Last Rites" soundtracks, or for the teen movie fan, the "In Their Eyes" compilation of '90s teen bands covering songs from '80s teen movies.

Looking for a gift for that special someone? The "Velvet Goldmine" script is now available in bookstores.

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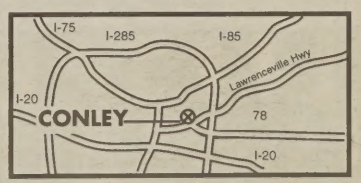

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7. "Split-Level Dykes to Watch Out For," Alison Bechdel, $10.95
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10. "Say Uncle," Randye Lordon, $5.99

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Out In Print

BOOK REVIEWS

Chemical excess, Santa mess

by JOHN BAKER

Gay author Edmund White says that Guillaume Dustan is "the toughest new writer to emerge in a land known for its incorrigibles." Dustan is the psuedonym of a high-ranking French judge in Australia, the author of IN MY ROOM.

The publishers would have you believe that Dustan is heir to the French tradition of hard-living, unapologetic authors like Genet or even the Marquis de Sade.

It is true that the characters in "In My Room" do lead lives that ask for no apologies or acceptance from the world at-large while they indulge in a great deal of hard living of the chemical variety. Their lives in Paris consist of going out to a variety of bars and sex clubs in search of their latest conquests while under the influence of a cornucopia of recreational drugs.

Author David Sedaris

Once they have achieved their conquests, they lure the prey back to their apartments where any of a number of sexual aids and toys are employed to heighten the probability that the evening will be truly unforgettable.

All of this may sound vaguely familiar, and therein lies part of the value of "In My Room." As an ethnographic piece, it reassures the gay reader that some forms of life in the urban ghetto are a global phenomenon. Although we may speak different languages or live in different countries, boys will apparently be boys.

If you seek escape from the everyday world in your reading, "In My Room" probably will not be sufficient to slake your literary thirsts. On the other hand, if a litany of the tricks and trysts of an insatiable Frenchmen with a drug problem sounds like the kind of thing that gets you going, this book will stimulate your senses and perhaps give you a few new ideas to implement during your next evening on the town.

Fans of David Sedaris' "Naked" and "Barrel Fever" will be pleasantly surprised to find out that their gift giving worries are now over. Back Bay Books has graciously provided a softcover collection of the hilarious author's holiday-themed essays in HOLIDAYS ON ICE, first published in 1997.

The collection opens with Sedaris' classic, "SantaLand Diaries," which tells the tale of a hapless man forced to accept employment as an elf at ground zero for the crass commercialization of the Savior's birth, Macy's SantaLand. His account of Christmas spent toiling in the salt mines of SantaLand will keep you snickering all the way to the mall.

This is followed by "Season's Greetings to Our Friends and Family," the perverse take on the time-honored suburban tradition of sending the holiday newsletter detailing a family's accomplishments during the preceding year. Sedaris deliciously parodies that litany of information you would already know if you were actually interested in the lives of the senders.

There are several other extremely entertaining looks at the orgy of consumption and commerce that Christmas has become. Sedaris savagely skewers all things Christmas and American in his mordantly funny slices of life in suburbia. Christmas cards, school pageants, visits to the mall and Yuletide acts of charity find themselves in the sights of one of today's most insightful commentators.

If you're already familiar with David Sedaris' work, by all means, treat yourself to a little light holiday reading that will take the edge off Coke commercials and Kathy Lee specials. If you're not, "Holidays on Ice" is an excellent seasonal introduction to an author who will make you laugh out loud several times on every page. And since it's the season for giving, this tome makes a perfect small gift for just about any thinking person on your list.

INFO

In My Room
by Guillaume Dustan, translated by Brad Rumpf
High Risk Books, $12.99

Holidays on Ice
by David Sedaris
Back Bay Books, softcover, $8.00

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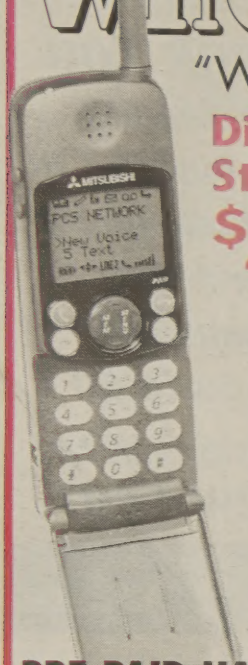

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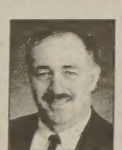

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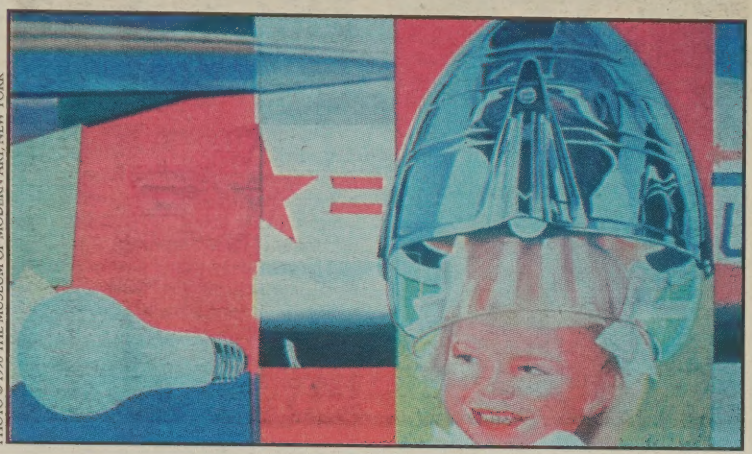

PHOTO © 1998 THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK

Looking for somewhere to take those out-of-town holiday visitors? Check out **"Pop Art: Selections from the Museum of Modern Art"** on view at the High Museum through Jan. 17. Above is a detail from James Rosenquist's "F-111," 1964-65. Call 404-733-HIGH.

special events

CHRISTMAS EVE BUFFET Dec 24, 5-9 pm. Prince George at The Armory. Juniper at 6th. 404-724-4669

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL Final week—closing Dec 27. Brand-new, sensational show "Quidam" under the Big Top at Atlanta Civic Center. Visit the box office or call 800-678-5440.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! See Time Out (page 37) for a listing of activities around town.

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THE ARMORY Thur-Sat 11 pm: The Divas. Sun 9 pm: The Armorettes. 836 Juniper. 404-881-9280

PRINCE GEORGE AT THE ARMORY Wed, 7 pm: Robert Ray. Thur-Sat, 7 pm: Stephen Pyle. Sun, brunch: Carlton; dinner: Larry Little. Juniper at 6th. 404-724-4669

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ATLANTA BALLET Closing Dec 27. Annual production of "Nutcracker." Fox Theatre box office or Ticketmaster 404-817-8700

exhibits

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EMORY UNIVERSITY DOBBS CENTER ART GALLERY Thru Dec 30. Ray Pierotti. 605 Ashbury Cr. 404-727-2787

ART INSTITUTE OF ATLANTA Thru Dec 31. "Renderings" group show. 3376 Peachtree Rd. 404-266-1341 ext 335

TRINITY GALLERY BUCKHEAD Thru Dec 31. "Women Working in Clay" Barb Doll, Debra Fritts, Jeri Hollister. 315 E Paces Ferry Rd. 404-237-0370

BENDER FINE ART Thru Jan 16. "Illuminations: 3 Views of the Figure." 309 E Paces Ferry Ste 140. 404-842-1913

BARBARA ARCHER GALLERY Thru Jan 30. Landscapes by George Lowe, who is beloved by millions as the voice of the star of Cartoon Network's "Space Ghost Coast-to-Coast!" 1123 Zonolite Rd. #27. 404-815-1545

THE BANK Thru Jan 30. Santa Fe artists Jennifer Joseph. 315 Peters St. 404-525-2609

VAKNIN SCHWARTZ Thru Jan 17. Taboo presents man art with "Testosterone." 1831 Peachtree Rd. 404-351-0035

LOWE GALLERY Thru Dec 31. Presenting Atlanta phenomenon Todd Murphy. Space A-2, Tula, 75 Bennett St. 404-352-8114

SWAN COACH HOUSE GALLERY Thru Jan 23. Gregor Turk. 3130 Slaton Dr NW. 404-266-0057

ATLANTA PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP GALLERY Thru Feb 6. The Nexus Photographers 1973-78. TULA, 75 Bennett St. 404-609-9484

MARGARET MITCHELL HOUSE Thru March 31. A celebration of Irish-American women. Peachtree at 10th. 404-249-7012

HIGH MUSEUM OF ART Thru Jan 17. "Pop Art: Selections from the Museum of Modern Art." 1280 Peachtree St. NE. 404-733-HIGH

music

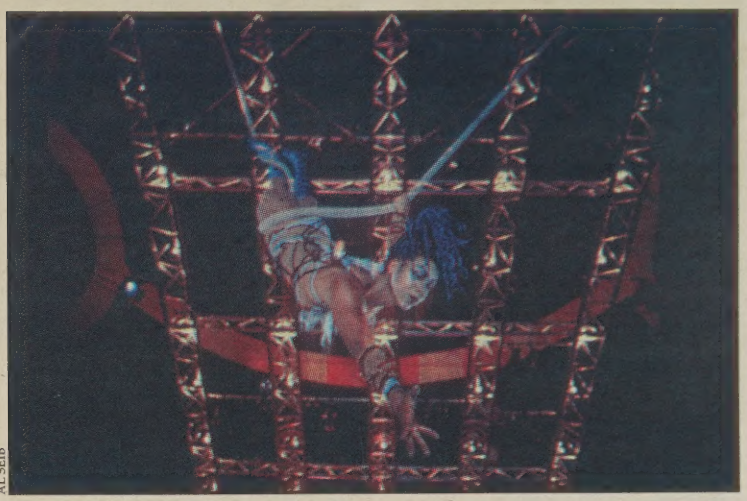
GREGG ALLMAN & FRIENDS Dec 26. Macon's legendary rocker. Roxy Theatre, 3110 Roswell Rd. Ticketmaster 404-249-6400

WIDESPREAD PANIC Dec 28-31. Fox box office or Ticketmaster, 404-249-6400

VILLAGE PEOPLE New Year's Eve. "You can get yourself clean! You can have a good meal! You can do whatever you feel!" The Tabernacle. Box office or Ticketmaster, 404-249-6400

ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Dec 30, 8 pm & Jan 2, 10:30 am & 8 pm: Yoel Levi conducts "Vienna" concert. Dec 31, 9:30 pm: Yoel Levi conducts New Year's Eve Gala. Symphony Hall. 404-733-5000.

events calendar



AL SEIB

This is your last weekend to catch **"Quidam,"** the sensational new production from Cirque du Soleil. After the 5 p.m. show on Dec. 27, the troupe folds up its big tent and moves on. Visit the box office or call 800-678-5440.

ISLEY BROTHERS New Year's Eve. The R&B greats live in concert. Civic Center box office or Ticketmaster, 404-249-6400

EDDIE'S ATTIC Thur-Fri: closed. Sat: Shawn Mullins, Kyle Shiver. Sun: WRFG's "Live at the Attic." Mon: acoustic open mic. Tue-Wed: open mic finalist showcase. New Year's Eve: Soul Miner's Daughter, Rob Gallo. 515-B N McDonough St, Decatur. 404-377-4976

radio

THE SOUTHERN VOICE BROADWAY SHOW Fri, noon-2 pm. If you love showtunes, don't miss SoVo's new Broadway spectacular! WGKA 1190 AM

METROPOLITAN OPERA Sat, 1:30 pm. Dawn Upshaw headlines in Mozart's "The Magic Flute." WABE 90.1 FM

THE PET FILES Sat, 3-4 pm. Call-in show answers questions about our animal friends. This week: a first-aid kit for pets. WGUN 1010 AM

OLD SCHOOL HOUSE-PARTY Sat, 7 pm-midnight. The perfect pre-club throw-down! MAGIC 107.5 FM

RADIO FREE GEORGIA Alternative station's shows of interest include "Sister's Time" Thur, 6 pm; "Gay Graffiti" Thur, 7 pm; "Alternative Talk" Fri, 6 pm-and "Still Ain't Satisfied" Mon, 9 pm. WRFG 89.3 FM

television

MEET ME IN ST LOUIS Thur, 8 pm. Get out your handkerchief and hear Judy Garland sing "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." TCM

CHRISTMAS WITH ROBERT SHAW Thur, 10 pm. PBA

DENYCE GRAVES—A CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS Thur, 11 pm. The acclaimed mezzo-soprano in concert at the National Cathedral. GPTV

JESSYE NORMAN'S HOLIDAY HOMECOMING Fri, 8:30 pm. The opera great comes home to Augusta, Ga, for a special performance. PBA

LES MISERABLES Fri, 9:30 pm. 10th anniversary concert performance, recorded live in London's Albert Hall. GPTV

TOP HAT Fri, 11:30 am. Spend Christmas morning with Fred and Ginger! TCM

AMERICAN MUSIC SHOW Fri, 11 pm; also Sat 11:30 pm. America's longest-running cable access show. People TV, cable channel 12

DEAUNDRA PEEK'S TV SHOW Fri, 11:30 pm; also Sat 11 pm. People TV, cable channel 12

SPACE GHOST COAST TO COAST Fri, 11:30 pm. Marvel at the only talk show host with super-powers! CARTOON

THE OUTSIDERS Sat, 7 am. Boys galore—Matt Dillon! Rob Lowe! Tom Cruise! C. Thomas Howell!—star in this big-screen adaptation of SE Hinton's novel of troubled youth. TCM

TIME AFTER TIME Sat, 1 pm. Malcolm McDowell stars in this exciting movie in which H.G. Wells time-travels to modern-day San Francisco to hunt down Jack the Ripper. TCM

SISTER WENDY'S STORY OF PAINTING Sat, 7 pm. In this 5-hour series, a 67-year-old "art nun" explains the world's greatest paintings. PBA

CHANGE OF HABIT Sun, 8 am. Speaking of nuns—would you believe Mary Tyler Moore as a nun in love with Elvis Presley? TCM

METROPOLITAN OPERA PRESENTS Mon, 9 pm. Cecilia Bartoli stars in "La Cenerentola," Rossini's opera based on the legend of Cinderella. James Levine conducts. GPTV

WILL & GRACE Tues, 9:30 pm. Cute sitcom about a gay man and his best friends—a straight girl, her do-nothing secretary and a big queen. WXIA

JAILHOUSE ROCK Wed, 6 pm. Elvis is way sexy in this prison movie. Check out the all-male action in the title production number! TCM

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRESENTS Wed, 9 pm. Renée Fleming stars as the doomed belle Blanche in Andre Previn's new opera based on Tennessee Williams' Southern tragedy. Previn conducts. GPTV

SOUTH PARK Wed, 10 pm. "Oh my God! They killed Kenny!" COMEDY

WHITE HEAT Wed, 10 pm. One of the greatest gangster movies. Jimmy Cagney is an electrifying as a murderous, mother-obsessed gang leader. The explosive final sequence ("Look at me Ma! Top of the world!") is film legend. TCM

BEING THERE New Year's Eve, 5:45 pm. Peter Sellers is brilliant as a simple-minded gardener who accidentally becomes a political guru. TCM

THE SONGS OF JOHNNY MERCER New Year's Eve, 7 pm. The great Georgia songwriter is remembered in this concert recorded at Asheville's Biltmore Estate. GPTV

theater

THE SANTALAND DIARIES Sun-Tue. David Sedaris' play about his true-life experiences as a Macy's elf. Horizon Theatre Co, Euclid at Austin Aves. 404-584-7450

➢ Continued on Page 48

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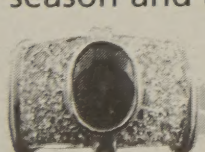

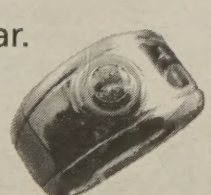

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Holiday Hours

M-F 10am-7pm • Th 10am-9pm • Sat 10am-6pm • Sun 1pm-5pm

events calendar

➢ Continued from Page 47

Monday at 9 p.m. on **"Metropolitan Opera Presents,"** Cecilia Bartoli sings the title role in "La Cenerentola." The Rossini opera is a retelling of the story of Cinderella. Watch it on GPTV.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Closing Sat. Sandra Deer's adaptation of Dickens' scary, heartwarming tale of greed and redemption. Alliance Theater Co. 404-733-5000

A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES Closing Sun. Theatre Gael's musical tribute to Dylan Thomas. 14th St Playhouse. 404-876-9762

THE ART OF DINING Thru Jan 3. Tina Howe's satire of gourmets. Horizon Theatre Co, Euclid at Austin Aves. 404-584-7450

THE 1940s RADIO HOUR Thru Jan 3. 17th annual production is behind-the-scenes look at Christmas radio show in 1942. Theatre in the Square, Marietta. 770-422-8369

EXPECTING CAROL Thru Jan 3. Troubles abound for a company attempting to stage Dickens' holiday classic. PushPush Theater, 1123 Zonolite Rd. 404-892-7876

THE SHOEMAKER AND THE ELVES Thru Jan 4. Classic fairy tale, adapted by Bobby Box and Lorna Howley, in which everyone learns the magic of giving. Center for Puppetry Arts, Spring St at 18th. 404-873-3391

GRACE & GLORIE Thru Jan 10. Friendship blooms between hospice volunteer and elderly woman. First show in theater's new Alley Stage space. Theatre in the Square, 11 Whitlock Ave, Marietta. 770-422-8369

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Albert Einstein

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Through Jan. 3, Marietta's Theatre in the Square presents **"The 1940s Radio Hour,"** a comedy about backstage goings-on at a live Christmas broadcast. Shown are Kent Whipple, Scott Butler and Roy J. "Skip" Herman. Call 770-422-8369.

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR Thru Jan 30. $11 bargain matinee this Sun at 2 pm. The hilarious exploits of Shakespeare's beloved rogue Falstaff. The Shakespeare Tavern, 499 Peachtree St 404-874-5299

IMPROVATORY Ongoing. Fri, 10:30 pm. Dad's Garage, 280 Elizabeth St. 404-523-3141

COMEDY IMPROV Ongoing. Thur-Sat, 9 pm. Whole World Theater, 1214 Spring St. 404-817-0880

upcoming

PRIDE OF DIXIE ANTIQUES MARKET Jan 1-3. Shop more than 800 booths. North Atlanta Trade Center. 770-279-9853

WCW MONDAY NITRO Jan 4. TNT's live wrestling extravaganza returns to the Ga Dome. Box office or Ticketmaster, 404-249-6400

2 PIANOS, 4 HANDS Jan 5-7. NY hit musical comedy about two musicians in training. Robert Ferst Center for the Arts, Georgia Tech, 349 Ferst Drive, NW. 404-894-9600

ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Jan 7-9. Yoel Levi conducts the ASO and pianist Andre Watts. Symphony Hall. 404-733-5000.

EVITA Feb 9-14. New production has Latin actors in the four lead roles. Fox box office or Ticketmaster, 404-817-8700

MISS SAIGON Feb 18-March 6. As Saigon falls, love blooms between an American solider and a Vietnamese girl. Civic Center box office or Ticketmaster 404-817-8700

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Unto You Is Born A Savior...

The Unblinking Eye

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"One of the most interesting things I did was to host a 'virtual happy hour'" he said. "I put a camera in each room and gave each guest an e-mail address. Several of them received fan mail. It was a big hit. I've had several viewers ask me when it will happen again."

But Patrick lets viewers see him at his best and worst. A few sharp-eyed visitors to his site have caught some rather personal nocturnal moments. There are times when Patrick forgets the camera is on.

"It's only about the size of a golf ball," he said, "and sometimes I just don't think about it. One night I came home from a happy hour, sat down in the chair and passed out in my underwear. I awoke while hitting the floor, wedgie and all—not very glamorous, but very amusing. There are moments when I'm less than beautiful. The camera doesn't miss much."

A survey of the gay sites offering 24-hour peeps reveals the webcam wave to be a young white male phenomenon. We could find no African-American or lesbian sites. Exhibitionist tendencies tend to run high. In addition to the unblinking eye of the webcam, most have a section for photo stills that range from heavy schlock to light porn. Patrick's site, for all his protestations of it being strictly an artistic expression, is a case in point. Nearly half of his still photos are shirtless.

Tim Howard, 30, from Madison, Alabama saw a blurb about Patrick's site on "Entertainment Weekly." "I got intrigued by the whole idea of giving people a way of 'seeing' me," he said. He was discouraged to find a lot of webcam sites were just this side of porn. But he built his site anyway (http://members.tripod.com/~thoward68) with no intention of letting anyone see skin. In fact, even his photo gallery doesn't have a single shirtless picture.

Lewis, 31, is getting a B.A. in music from Columbus State University in Columbus, Ga. He just put up a site he calls "LEWIS LIVE" (http://207.69.182.37) recently. But he doesn't want it on 24 hours. He's got a "Cam Schedule" page showing when he'll be visible for the camera. He built the site because he felt "the only way to get a 'visual' perspective on the Internet is to have a camera. I'm a student of life, I love to chat, so this seemed a fascinating way to do it."

Tim Howard of Madison, Ala., says he was intrigued by the idea of giving people a way of "seeing" him.

His partner of five years, Blake, is a little uneasy with who-knows-how-many strangers eyeballing them from far away. "I am sure he will appear from time to time," said Lewis, "but that is his decision."

Why did he put his web site up? "The most fascinating thing about the web to me," he said, "is meeting and interacting with people. I enjoy people, meeting, watching, sharing interests, learning about our differences. No, this is not some ego trip or sexual thrill. There won't be nudity on Lewis Live."

If you've already got a web page, setting up a webcam site is easy. All it takes is some inexpensive hardware and software. But losing your dollars isn't as big an obstacle as losing your inhibition. Here are a few other sites that lost both

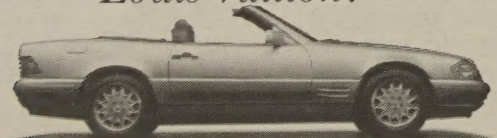
Lewis, 31, uses his cam site as a student of life. His partner is a little more uneasy about it.

INFO

http://hometown.aol.com/cowboy2175/index.htm
http://members.aol.com/proareyou9
http://members.home.net/kewldude
http://www.johncamlive.com
http://nettaxi.com/citizens/puppycam/main.html

—Rich Arenschieldt contributed to this article.

"Seriously, Can You Picture Any Other Way To Carry Your Louis Vuitton?"



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Eating Out

by GARY KAUPMAN

Maui not so wow-y

Lets' get the bad news over and done with. Those lovable folks who've been selling you Blimpies for a couple of decades have evidently been vacationing in Hawaii. Maui, to be exact, where they found a charming little place called **MAUI TACOS**, owned by a dude from Texas who also just happens to operate a swankola Pac Rim joint named Avalon.

Are you still with me?

MAUI TACOS

It seems that the guy from Texas (and his spouse) began to tire of all that tuna tartare and macadamia, encrusted mahi mahi. Their craving for tacos, enchiladas and chips led them to open the first of five Maui Tacos (on Maui) and thence to the first stateside version (in partnership with the Blimpie boys) right here in Hotlanta, just beyond I-285 at the intersection of Peachtree Dunwoody Rd. and Hammond Dr.

The press kit came with a cute little bottle of red peppers, promised a "menu [that] rides high on Hawaii's abundance of fruits and vegetables, tropical flavors and char-broiled meats." Thus did a friend and I hop in the Honda and beat feet to the suburbs, our salivary glands bellowing, "Now Cupid and Vixen, on Donner and Blitzen ...." Just think how fabulous a find this will be: fresh, flavorful, innovative and inexpensive, low-fat food served in balmy surrounds, barely a stone's throw from Nordstrom's.

You wish.

The concrete-floored, strip center storefront looks like it was designed in Seattle (it was), prefabricated in Iowa (only a guess), trucked in the dead of night and assembled by lay-off's from a recently bankrupted mobile home manufacturing facility.

You're right. I am over-reacting. Maui Tacos is marginally more attractive than your average Blimpie, downright charming compared with a Subway. But when folks who write press releases say that these stores offer a "laid back, surf's up destination decor" and "each restaurant brims with retire-Hawaiian imagery," they ought not send them to a queen like me who has M.I.D. (Master of Design Insultance) after his name.

Nor should they suggest a taco-based menu "*overflowing* (my emphasis) with Chef Ellman's delicious offerings" if they have ever eaten a taco/burrito at Tortilla's, the Mean Bean, Art of the Burrito, the Raging Burrito, Great Western Burrito or Willy's.

The list of ingredients here is short and unimaginative, then combined in the most ordinary ways. Add liquid smoke in one of the salsas and lackluster chips dyed the colors of the Mexican flag and what you've

➢ Continued on Page 53

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➢ Continued on Page 54

Eating Out

➢ Continued from Page 51

got is little more than a less obnoxious alternative to Del Taco. If that fails to float your boat, forget it.

On a more positive note, there is now a Chin-Chin (number V) in this same shopping center. Same sparkling kitchen, smiling welcome, and simple, but engaging, menu as the first two locations. I'll bet the food is good, too.

St. Agnes, RIP— My Sisters, jump for joy

Back over in Decatur (soon to get its very own Raging Burrito and a Mediterranean themed bistro from the owner of Harvest), the cafe known as St. Agnes Tea Garden is no longer. In its place we have the reincarnated **MY SISTERS' ROOM**, which serves a very simple menu of bar food and snacks in surrounds so laid back that even the most barphobic will be charmed. And perfectly well fed.

Our chips with queso, burger with fries and Reuben with slaw were delivered quickly and with a smile. Would that the burger had been less overcooked, but a second cocktail made the miscue a non-issue, as did a fab waitron. The background music track—short on boom-chukkas and thumps, long on interesting harmonies and rhythms—was also a real treat.

The clientele is mostly women-who-love-women, but my date and I were welcomed warmly and left with smiles on our faces.

Think of My Sisters' Room as yang to the yin of Watershed—both doing a bang-up job of claiming queer community space smack in the middle of a city known for the quality of its churches and schools.

You've gotta love it.

The *SoVo* Food File

Maui Tacos
1100 Hammond Drive
770-522-8624

Food: ★★
Service: ★★
Comfort & Aesthetics: ★★
Value: ★
Scene: ★

My Sisters' Room
22 East Howard Avenue
404-370-1995

Food: ★★★
Service: ★★★½
Comfort & Aesthetics: ★★★★
Value: ★★★
Scene: ★★★½

👎=Stay home and eat cereal
★★=Well, if you really *must*
★★★=Fine for all but the finnicky
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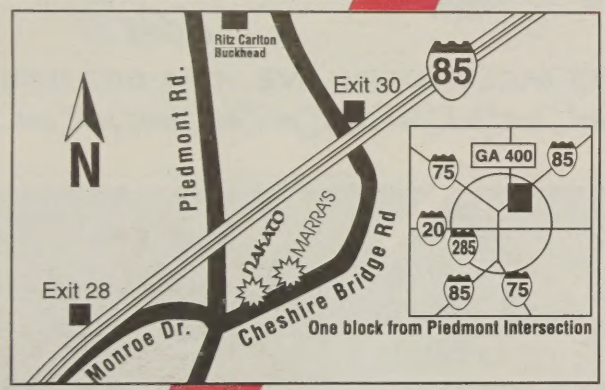

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restaurant list

➢ Continued from Page 52

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Lindy's Restaurant
Lindy's is the quintessential "off the beaten path" neighborhood restaurant located in the quaint neighborhood of Peachtree Hills in Buckhead. Serving moderately priced Italian cuisine in a cozy cafe setting. Dine indoors in the cafe or in warmer months on the lovely roof garden. 10 King Circle at Peachtree Hills. 404-231-4113 www.lindyscafe.com

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Party Like It's 1999

➢ Continued from Page 37

lete. It's sort of like the lambada. Disco became the forbidden music. But I really think that the backlash in the long term is the reason why we're still here and happening today. People said, 'Wait a minute. I liked that music.' And there were a lot of younger people who almost weren't allowed to listen to it. It's a very strange phenomenon."

The Village People will ring in the New Year by performing all their hits from the '70s, including "Y.M.C.A.," "In the Navy," and "Macho Man."

Hodo says to expect a diverse audience at the show. "We seem to be a good wholesome family attraction. I don't think our show is for little kids, but they sit in front and seem to have a wonderful time."

If that particular village isn't your style, you may want to try one of the following other New Year's options:

Those who are craving a boozeless evening with mimes, jugglers, and families from Gwinnett should try **FIRST NIGHT ATLANTA**. Starting at 7 p.m., visitors can choose from a variety of 30-minute performances held throughout the evening on more than 25 indoor stages in Midtown's theaters, churches and office buildings. The acts this year include: Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus, Big Fish Ensemble, Funky Kev and his aerobics dancers, The Roches, Robert Ray Orchestra, Dad's Garage, Veronika Jackson, the Atlanta Brass, the Atlanta Symphony String Quartet, Southern Discomfort, Pop Art at the High Museum, and even the Freedom Marching Band. The evening ends with a fireworks celebration at the stroke of midnight. Admission tickets are $7 in advance at all TicketMaster centers or at the Woodruff Arts Center Box Office, $12 at the gate. For more information, call 404-881-0400.

Anti-disco reactionaries may want to try Z-93's 4th Annual **RAISING OF THE PEACE** featuring old skool rock and roll bands Soup, Day by the River, Tumbleweed Junction and Mudcat at 8 p.m. at the Variety Playhouse, 1099 Euclid Avenue. For more information, call 404-524-7354.

Adult film stars **CHASE HUNTER** and **DOUG JEFFRIES** will perform at the **METRO**, 1080 Peachtree, in two New Year's shows: one at midnight, the other at 2 a.m. The shows will be hosted by Trina Saxon. For more information, call 404-874-9869.

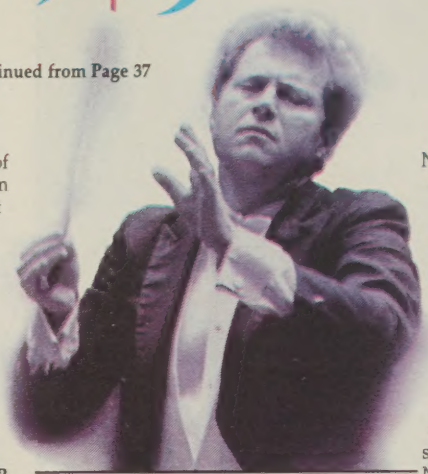
The **ATLANTA FEMINIST WOMEN'S CHORUS** is offering a New Year's Eve Party and Fund-raiser from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the First Existentialist Congregation Church, 407 Candler Park Dr. Cost is $15, or $10 for students or those on restricted incomes.

CHUCK MORGAN

Trina Saxxon hosts adult film stars Chase Hunter and Doug Jeffries at The Metro.

DAD'S GARAGE is throwing what they're billing as "the biggest New Year's show ever ... the last time to enjoy New Year's Eve without fear of computers crashing." The evening begins with an improv show at 9 p.m. and an opportunity for guests to throw pies at the staff of the theater afterwards. 280 Elizabeth Street. Tickets are $10. For more information, call 404-523-3141.

MASQUERADE offers a line-up of alternative bands including Stuck Mojo, Urban Grind, MK Ultra, and Exit 8. DJ Twit and DJ It will spin '80s tunes in Hell.



The Atlanta Symphony offers "A Very Levi New Year's Eve" with Yoel Levi at Woodruff Arts Center.

THE OTHERSIDE, 1924 Piedmont, offers a **RED TIE AFFAIR**. Tickets are $20 in advance, $25 at the door. On the patio, the band One Without will perform. Indoors is buffet, champagne and $1,000 in cash and prizes in a midnight balloon drop. For more information, call 404-875-5238.

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER is ringing in the New Year with a party for guests and members, old and new. For more information call 404-892-BWMT.

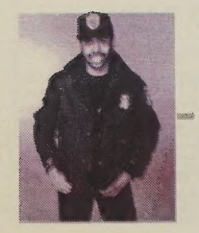
ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA offers a night in Old Vienna with "A Very Levi New Year's Eve." Yoel Levi conducts the ASO in Strauss waltzes with dancing and food and drink. Black tie optional. 9:30 p.m. $40-70 at Woodruff Arts Center, 1280 Peachtree St. 404-733-5000.

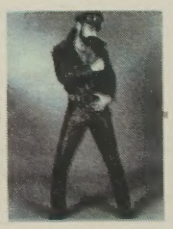
LE BUZZ in Marietta is throwing a party with a drag show, buffet and champagne toast. **BLAKE'S** will offer a special New Year's version of the "Lust and Bust" drag show. **BURKHART'S** is throwing their traditional New Year's bash with free champagne at midnight. And **MARY'S** of East Atlanta will offer a dance video New Year's Eve countdown with no cover charge, free champagne, free shooters and a balloon drop at midnight.

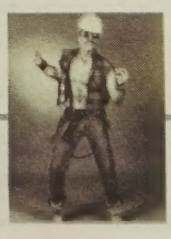
All the rest of your favorite local bars will be open and pouring on New Year's Eve. And don't forget the Atlanta New Year's tradition of watching the giant **PEACH DROP** at **UNDERGROUND**, which is free and open to the public.

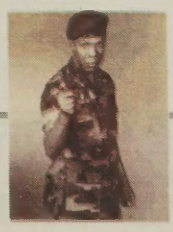
And if New Year's Eve doesn't do you in, Greg Offord's GEO Productions and Steve Berman Productions are presenting **INSOMNIA 2**, the second annual New Year's Day Brunch and T-Dance at **LORETTA'S**, 708 Spring St. (corner of 3rd and Spring). Dancing starts at noon, Jan. 1, 1999 with the music of Mark MacEwan. Advance tickets are $15 at Twelve and Boy Next Door or call 1-800-494-TIXS. For more information, call 404-486-7711.

The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus perform again this year at First Night Atlanta, while the Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus holds a benefit show at the First Existentialist Congregation.









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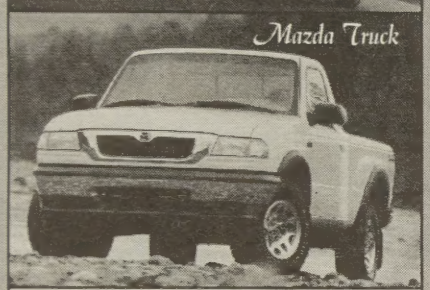

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Dish

There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

Happy birthday, dear Quentin

Atlanta's Lady Bunny, Athens' "B-52" Kate Pierson and film director John Waters were among those paying homage last week to Quentin Crisp, who turns 90 on Christmas day. According to an article by Andrew Jacobs in *The New York Times*, the party at the home of composer Cheryl Hardwick featured lavender plates, napkins, tablecloths and cake frosting in honor of the way-gay Crisp, who burst on the scene with his 1958 memoir "The Naked Civil Servant." Crisp settled on a loveseat arranged as his throne for the evening and sipped Pimm's Cup throughout. "At my age, death would be most welcome," the bitter old dear told his interviewer. Still, he's audacious enough to be the centerpiece for a new one-man show, "An Evening with Quentin Crisp," set to open Christmas day at the Intar Theater. Dish had the pleasure of experiencing one of Mr. Crisp's "evenings" a few years back at Theatrical Outfit in Atlanta, and we heartily endorse the experience. We wish Quentin a happy birthday and—selfishly, we suppose—many more to come.

Could Quentin Crisp be the second most famous man who's birthday is celebrated on Dec. 25?

'Little Voice'—big soundtrack

All you showqueens will enjoy the soundtrack to the new Miramax picture "Little Voice" (reviewed in this issue by Kim Yutani on page 43). The story of a withdrawn girl who breaks out of her shell by imitating vocal greats from the past (Garland, Holiday, Merman) will definitely seem familiar to any gay person who (like Dish) spent hours and hours as a kid in front of the bedroom mirror crooning into a hairbrush microphone. The CD includes two songs by the movie's star (Jane Horrocks, best known as Edina's daffy secretary, Bubble, on "Absolutely Fabulous") but mainly focuses on the originals that inspired her character in the film—Judy's "Come Rain or Come Shine," "That's Entertainment" and "The Man That Got Away"; Billie's "Lover Man"; Shirley Bassey's "Big Spender" and "Goldfinger"; and Tom Jones' "It's Not Unusual." The big-finish number—Merman's "There's No Business Like Show Business"—really says it all.

'Pop' on over to the High

If you're searching for cool things to do with out-of-town visitors this holiday week, head to the High Museum of Art for "Pop Art: Selections from the Museum of Modern Art." Its superstar, of course, is Andy Warhol, who's well-represented with 32 Campbell's soup cans, vibrant self-portraits and more. But works by lesser known popsters are no less interesting. Tom Wesselmann's "Still Life #30" shows a kitchen pulsating with the products of early '60s prosperity. Works by Roy Lichtenstein show how successful he was at his stated goal of making his paintings "look more like the comics than the comics." Edward Ruscha's works painstakingly documented the futuristic sameness of gas stations. And George Sigal's lifesize sculpture "The Bus Driver" reflects the artist's fear of a society populated by people who devolve into faceless drones, becoming nothing more than the drudgery they perform to live. Dish finally caught the exhibit last week, and we urge everyone to see it before it heads back to New York on Jan. 17.

Groovy threads for Pete, Julie and Linc

Americans are locked in a retro love affair with the era when love was free, pot was cheap and all sex was considered safe. MGM's movie "The Mod Squad" (due out in March) is billed as a contemporized version of Aaron Spelling's TV series about an unlikely trio of crime-fighting hipsters, which aired from 1968 until 1972. In what's described as "a groundbreaking promotion," Levi's is creating a new line of clothing inspired by the look and attitude of the film's characters. The deal is believed to be the first time a major clothing firm has created a line specifically inspired by a film. Starring are Claire Danes ("William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet") as Julie, Omar Epps ("Scream 2") as Linc and Giovanni Ribisi ("Saving Private Ryan") as Pete. Scott Silver, who made his debut with "johns," directed. The original show included lots of hip-huggers, afros and bell-sleeve shirts—we'll see what the new version inspires.

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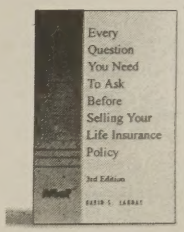

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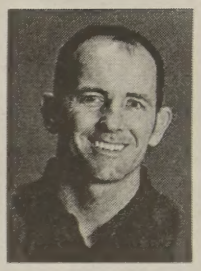

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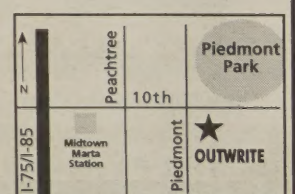

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The Doctor Is Out

by GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The hazards of pumping up

Popularized by high profile athletes like Mark McGwire, legal steroid supplements are rapidly becoming some of the most widely-used dietary supplements and herbal medicines. They have been touted to rejuvenate, improve energy, and improve strength and muscle size. After the revelation that McGwire used them in his record-breaking home run season, sales have boomed.

What are they? The most popular of the steroid supplements are DHEA, androstenedione, and androstenediol. These are converted into testosterone by the body.

Adrostenedione, the one McGwire uses, is the closest to testosterone and is the strongest anabolic steroid of the three. Two steroid supplements on the market, norandrostenedione and norandrostenediol, are converted to nandrolone, another anabolic steroid.

Prescription-only anabolic steroids have long been used as performance-enhancing drugs to increase strength and size for competitive sports. Most anabolic steroids are available only by prescription and are tightly controlled. They are intended for legitimate medical uses, like for people who have a hormone deficiency or who suffer from muscle wasting due to cancer or HIV.

Over-the-counter steroid supplements like DHEA and the others, on the other hand, are not regulated by the FDA, and not much is known about their usefulness, quality, and possible side effects.

Natural does not mean safe. Although strength varies between the types of supplements, they are anabolic steroids and would be expected to have the same risks as their prescription counterparts. These risks include acne, increased body hair, increased cholesterol and heart disease, irritability, aggressiveness, liver problems, kidney problems, liver tumors, and dependency.

In men, anabolic steroids can cause balding, shrinkage of the testicles, breast enlargement and prostate problems. They can also increase the growth of prostate cancer.

In women, anabolic steroids can cause deepening of the voice, increased facial hair, clitoral enlargement and menstrual problems. They are very dangerous in teenagers, because they can stop further growth by closing bone growth plates.

Like many Americans, gays are into working out, and there seems to be a heavy emphasis on a muscular physique—making weight training and bodybuilding particularly popular. With this comes a desire for easier and more rapid gains, like those promised by steroid supplements.

Ultimately, however, the user needs to decide whether the risk of unknown and potentially health-threatening side-effects justify even the use of legal anabolic steroids.

The Georgia Association of Physicians for Human Rights (GAPHR) is an organization of physicians and medical students dedicated to promoting the delivery of supportive, unprejudiced, and well informed medical care to bisexual, lesbian and gay patients. GAPHR, P.O. Box 13132, Atlanta, GA 30324 or (404) 231-2251.

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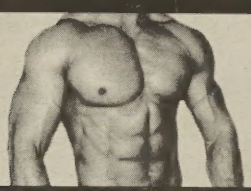

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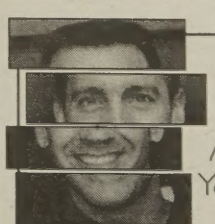

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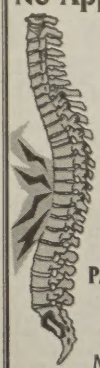

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POWER TOOL TIME

Hardware shopping how-to's

by DARLENE DRURY

I find myself once again amazed by those well-educated and seemingly intelligent friends of mine. Many of them are absolutely terrified of shopping at a hardware store. I certainly empathize when they are shopping at one of those very large, warehouse kinds of places. It's great to be able to look around, but there never seems to be anyone around when you need a little friendly advice.

The following hints may be particularly helpful for all of the hardwarophobes amongst you.

First, pick a local small neighborhood kind of hardware store. The staff at these places tend to be much easier to find and they usually have some expertise in the area in which they work—the plumbing guy has usually done quite a bit of plumbing, the electrical department guy has done wiring, and so on.

You will need to explain to the hardware person as clearly as possible what it is you think you may need. They can only suggest possible solutions if they have a clear idea of the problem.

Second, if you need a particular part to fix a broken thing, ***take the part with you***. The friendly advice guys and gals at the hardware store can more easily match a gizmo if they have the original as opposed to your description of what you think may be wrong with whatever it is that is broken.

If you cannot take the part with you, a Polaroid picture of the broken thing will work pretty well. Sketches work well, too, but they should be visually accurate representations, not something you'd scrawl out in a game of Pictionary.

Now be prepared to hear at least two or three different names for the part you need. I firmly believe the hardware folks really like to play the name game with hardware shoppers, particularly novices.

After you have picked out the correct part, be sure it is the right size for the project at hand. It seems that everything in a hardware store comes in a wide variety of sizes. There's nothing more frustrating than going back home, getting up to your elbows in your repair work again, and then finding out the part doesn't fit.

If you are involved in a beautification or home improvement project, you will find a wider variety of fixtures at the larger warehouse places. Ceiling fans, light fixtures, plumbing fixtures, closet organizers and the like will usually be on display and in stock at the larger places. If they do not have exactly what you want, ask a salesperson to call other locations to see if the item you have your heart set on may be available elsewhere.

➢ Continued on Page 63

SHER PRUITT

There's no reason to fear the voluminous inventory of a hardware store. You just need the right attitude and the right information.

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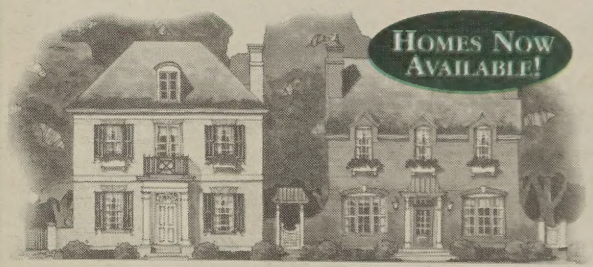

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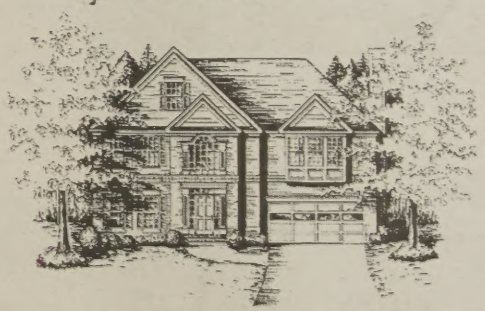

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POWER TOOL TIME

Hardware shopping how-to's

➢ Continued from Page 61

My favorite shopping method is one frequently employed by my friend, The Grand Czarina for Life of the Digging Dykes of Decatur, the Most Honorable Ms. Sherry Siclair. Her method requires a little planning in order to execute. If you follow these steps exactly, you may get the desired results, but no guarantees can be made since there will be personal differences in the execution.

1. Don't leave your house until you have a detailed list of all of the items you need from the hardware store.
2. Choose a small neighborhood hardware store. ***This method will not work at a large warehouse kind of place.***
3. You must "flounce" into the store, because the success of this shopping method is determined entirely by attitude.
4. You grab a shopping cart and at the top of your voice say, "I need a man!"
5. A man in an appropriately colored vest should appear straight away and willingly gather all of your items for you and place them in your cart while you go out and browse the garden section.
6. The man in the appropriately colored vest will come find you when he is finished with your list, and you simply go to the cashier and pay for your merchandise.

There are two things you must consider when using this method. The first is that it will feel very unusual for the lesbians amongst you to shout "I need a man!" with any sort of authority. The Grand Czarina has been practicing this method for many years now.

If you are a man and want to use this method, please make sure you are in a hardware store somewhere in the Midtown area before you make such an overt statement of fact.

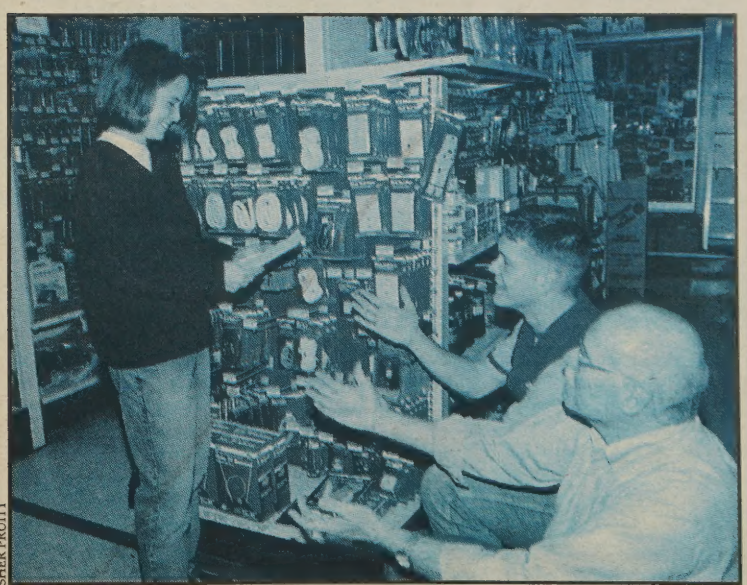
> Butches may be reticent to abandon the old fashioned grunt-at-all-the-men-who-try-to-help-you-and-plunder-around-until-you-find-what-you-need-no-matter-how-long-it-takes method.

Now the butches out there may think this is a very unnecessary show. For us there is the old fashioned grunt-at-all-the-men-who-try-to-help-you-and-plunder-around-until-you-find-what-you-need-no-matter-how-long-it-takes method. This is my personal favorite, especially if the salesman has already given me attitude about my request or the name by which I called the gizmo.

We hope this helps with the hardware needs in your life. Remember that most hardware store staff are willing and ready to assist you with your hardware needs, but it is up to you to give them a clear idea of what you want.

Thanks to East Atlanta Ace Hardware for the loan of their store and models Lyn Paille and Doug Baldwin.

Darlene Drury is the owner of Home Remedy, Inc., a home repair and painting company, and is a self-taught Jill-of-all-trades. She can be reached through this publication or at 404-288-6102.



SHER PRUTT

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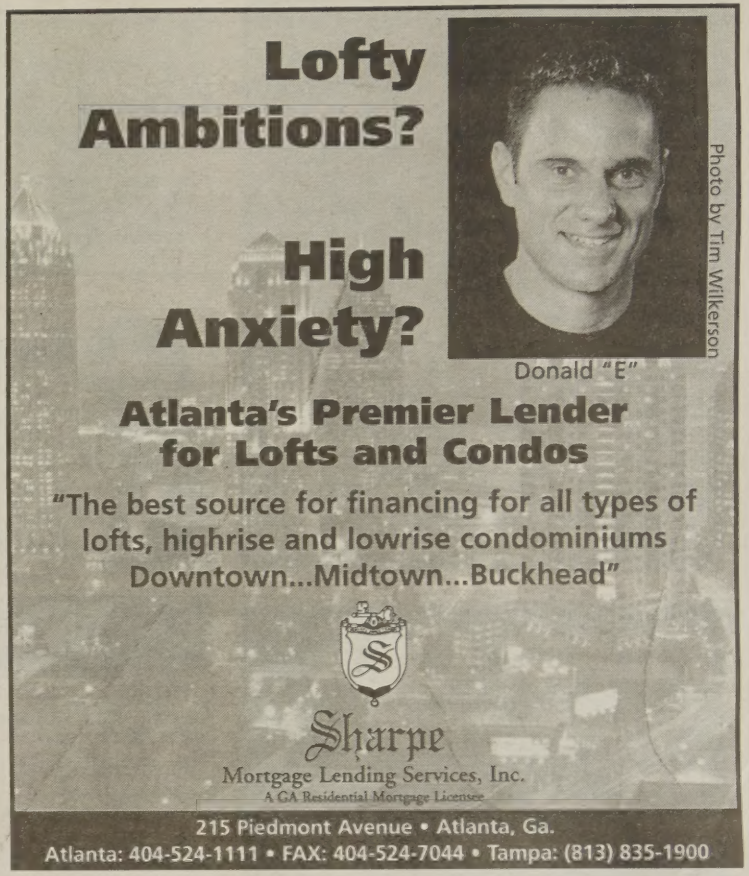
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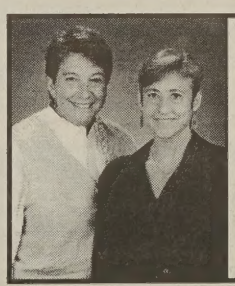

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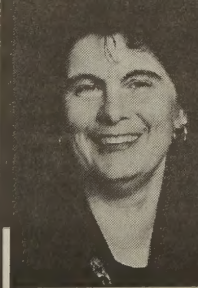

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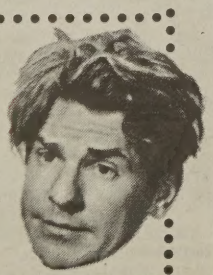

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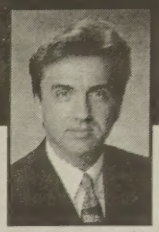

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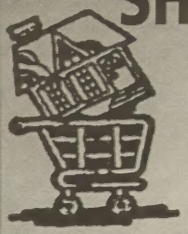

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Hop on the Internet and check out this hidden camera in San Francisco's hottest men's bathhouse. Go to www.GaySpyCam.com

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Announcements

Looking For

an old friend - Walter Hudson. Worked at A&P Peachtree Battle. Any info call Andrew at 404-624-3533

Artists and Craftsmen

New giftshop in Brookhaven needs you! Consign your work now for Christmas sales. Come see Gary Dixon at Cherokee Plaza Gifts and Cards. 3855 Peachtree Road. Mon-Sat 11-6.

Affordable housing available in metro Atlanta area. Careful screening and reference checking. Home But Not Alone. Now serving women and children. Please call 404-875-7881, ext 27 or ext 55.

Witness to Arrest in Piedmont Park 2/27/98

You: Man with dog, witness to an arrest on Friday February 27 in Piedmont Park. You stood up to the police then, please help me now. 404-816-7351

Auto

'91 Jeep Cherokee 4x4

Briarwood edition, 77K miles, PW, PL, automatic, AM/FM stereo cassette, great condition. Asking $10,000 OBO. 404-799-7157.

Business Opportunity

Old Car? No More!

Lease alternative - earn your dream vehicle and get paid thousands to drive it when qualified! Simple rewarding home-based opportunity. 404-869-8883.

Start your own limo service! Super-stretch limousine, 120 inch Lincoln '94. CD, TV, VCR, always warehoused, excellent condition. Will show you how to get started. $26,000. 404-622-3222.

Employment • Full

$800 weekly potential processing government refunds at home. No experience necessary. 1-800-696-4779 ext 1969.

Assistant/Executive - administrative skills, some computer skills, car and license a must. Apply in person Mon-Fri, My Favorite Mechanic 1618 DeKalb Avenue.

Work in the Community

Outwrite seeks full time and part time sales people. Retail and/or restaurant experience required. Great atmosphere, insurance benefits after 90 days. Apply with resume at 991 Piedmont Ave.

Restaurant in VA Highland area seeks experienced wait staff, nights only. 404-872-7203

Law Enforcement

Emory University is now accepting applications for the position of Police Dispatcher with the Emory University police Department. The Emory Police Department is a progressive, service oriented department, providing law enforcement and community services to a diverse, academically oriented community. Police Dispatchers serve as a resource for members of the University community by providing emergency and non-emergency communication for the University Police, First Responder EMS unit, and Community Service functions. The successful candidate must be at least 18 years of age, possess a high school diploma or equivalent, have one year of previous customer service, law enforcement or dispatch/telecommunications experience, have current certification by Georgia P.O.S.T. as a Communications Officer, or be able to obtain certification within six months of employment (The Police Department will assist the successful candidate in obtaining P.O.S.T. certification). Applicants must be able to meet investigation requirements. Permission to legally work in the united States and verbal and written fluency in English are required. U.S. citizenship is not required. Questions about the job may be directed to the Special Services Division of the Police Department at 404-727-5558. Emory University is an equal opportunity employer providing a competitive salary and benefits package. Interested parties should submit an application to the Human Resources Department, 1762 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA. 30022. Applications are accepted Monday through Thursday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Job # 121932FL

Driver/Designer

needed for established florist in Toco Hills, call Chris 404-965-6206.

Office Assistant/Receptionist /Man Friday needed full time. Answer phones, file, customer service. Computer experience a plus. Must have a good phone voice, a happy personality, present a good appearance, and be intelligent. Must spell very well. $8-$10/hr DOE. Apply in person, Mon-Fri. 9AM-4PM, 2100 Faulkner Rd (off Cheshire Bridge)

Graphic Designer

Join the exciting, fast-paced world of weekly news. Southern Voice is growing rapidly and needs another graphic designer. The position requires skill in Macintosh systems, Quark 4.0, Photoshop (extensive knowledge of photo manipulation and illustration) and freehand 8.0. Excellent copy writing and communication ability necessary. You must be comfortable with hard and fast deadlines. Southern Voice is an equal opportunity employer. Be a part of the country's fastest growing gay media company. Southern Voice is a Window Media publication. Send resume (no phone calls please) to Southern Voice, Personnel, 1095 Zonolite Road, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30306. Fax 404-876-2709, e-mail: southvoice@aol.com

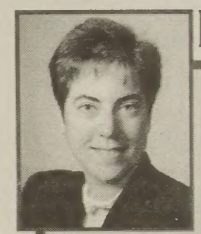
Residential & Commercial cleaning positions, full/part-time Monday-Friday. Good pay with benefits. Must have reliable transportation. B & C Enterprises. 770-993-9555.

Housecleaner

Busy professional couple seeks reliable housekeeper. Duties to include housecleaning, laundry, ironing, errands 15-20 hrs week at $10.00/hour. More hours avail to assist with business entertaining if interested. Must have car, references, and responsible demeanor. Age, sex, race unimportant, grad students ok. Leave message at (404)237-2990 or fax note to 770-395-9610 or e-mail to billw@titlelaw.com.

Licensed hairstylist needed. Busy Buckhead salon, full-time flexible hours, hourly salary plus commission plus product bonus. Apply in person 2900 Peachtree Rd, Peach Shopping Center. 404-240-0003

Party City of Buckhead has immediate openings for experienced cashiers and customer service reps. Top pay for qualified individuals. Opportunity for rapid growth with the largest party supply retailer in the world. Call 404-233-3600 or apply in person at 3655 Roswell Rd.



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Employment • Part

Admin Asst

Ad agency seeks admin with good typing, computer and phone skills for fun midtown office. Fridays 9-5 at $13/hour. Fax resume to 404-874-5287.

Part-time Mom-type needed. 1 day a week/8 hours $80 or 4 hours/2 days for $100. Male couple needs someone to thoroughly clean, do laundry, iron, and light cooking. Must live near Grant Park. 404-622-3222.

Part-time receptionist needed, flexible hours, apply in person 2900 Peachtree Rd, Peach Shopping Center. 404-240-0003

Delivery/Drivers

Johnny's Pizza and Subs, 2884 N Druid Hills Rd, is hiring delivery drivers, up to 25% commission. Call 404-636-2779.

➢ Continued on Page 66

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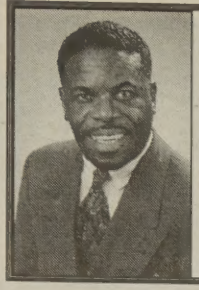

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Classifieds

➢ Continued from Page 65

Handcrafts

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Rainbow Textile Art Kits Co. P.O. Box 2045, Cotuit MA, 02635. Fun! :) Great gift and hobby! If life gives you scraps - sew quilts! :)

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Auto, home & life insurance now available from a family member! For a free quote, call: Lisa Whitstine, Allstate Insurance. 770-797-9547

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Rescued dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens need loving homes. Call Pet Orphans Rescue and Adoption. 770-443-3530

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Real Estate • Commercial

Emory Area

Office space for lease/purchase near VA hospital. 6 individual rooms, large waiting room, 2 baths, kitchen, parking lot. Dr Donna Sullivan at 706-864-0882.

Non-profit organization has office to sublet in Midtown suite. Approx. 11x11. Ideal for attorney. Available immediately. $350 depending on amenities. Contact Jeffrey McIntyre, 404-897-1880.

Real Estate For Rent

Grant Park Victorian, 4BR/2BA, 2500+ square feet, CH/A, high ceilings, $1500/month. Available now. 404-688-7501.

Newer 3BR, 2BA Home

w/FP, 2 car gar., deck, fenced back yard & basement. Convenient to Emory or Downtown. $1450 monthly 2846 Royal Bluff. David 404-874-2393 R.S.Owen & Co 404-231-3335.

Virginia Highlands - 1BR/1BA, brick carriage house, beautiful block, close to Emory, off-street parking, available 2/1/99. $900/month. Call Judy 404-249-7563.

Decatur ranch - 4 bedroom or 3 plus den, 2.5BA, nice neighborhood, hardwoods, living/dining room, family room, basement, deck, jacuzzi, wooded lot, $1495/month. 3305 Cardiff Way, Dave at Atlanta Intown. 404-815-8463.

Large renovated 2/2 with two bonus rooms. Hardwoods, beautiful kitchen. In diverse intown area of East Lake. Owner is licensed real estate agent. $1075/month plus deposit. 404-843-7040.

Available 2/1/99 - Victorian townhome in Inman Park. 3BR/3.5BA, LR, DR, kitchen and breakfast, hardwood floors, 2 car garage, $1800. Tacha 404-335-0410.

Real Estate For Sale

Druid Hills home 3BR/2.5BA, high ceilings, hardwood floors, needs renovation. $205,000. 1143 Briarcliff Rd. Call 404-874-9293.

Decatur/Avondale - 3BR/2BA, attached garage, out-building, beautiful giant screened porch, large lot. Forrest Hills, buy owner. $168,000. 404-284-8675.

Colony Square

Exciting renov. 12th floor views! 2BR, deck, 2BA, hardwoods, limestone, marble, etc. $449K. Mike Biggs Metro Brokers, 404-315-9829.

Lakefront

Furnished 3BR house and efficiency apartment, 3 porches, NE Alabama mountains, must see! $95,500. Call 256-634-4672.

Virginia Highlands - 3BR/3.5BA, vaulted ceilings, corner lot with circular driveway, completely remodeled, possible owner financing. 404-875-4808

Druid Hills/Emory - By owner, traditional townhouse/condo/48 Lullwater Place. Lion's Gate: 3BR/2.5BA, ceramic tile kitchen/high ceilings/formal DR. Traditional LR w/French doors to private garden terrace. Security system/ctrl. vac./custom built-ins, community pool. $237,900 (3% agents), $229,900 (no agents). Appointment only! 404-373-5221.

Roommate Situation

GWM nonsmoker, responsible, clean, looking to rent room in midtown Atlanta effective 1/30/99. if interested call Carl at 904-758-9156. Or e-mail hez@radu.net

Southern Voice Classifieds work.
Call us at 404-876-1819 southern VOICE
to advertise for a roommate.

Share House/Condo

Professional GM, nonsmoker seeks to rent 1BR/1BA plus office or 2BR/1BA in the Midtown/Ansley or Buckhead area. I travel extensively, looking to pay between $1000-$1300 in rent and utilities. Greg 404-875-8589.

Roommates

GWM gym rat seeks similar. Mature, responsible only apply. Decatur area. Large 2BR/1BA apt. $300 includes utilities. Awesome deal. 404-299-5115.

GWM to share 2BR/1BA. Cheshire Br/Lavista area. $250/month + 1/2 utilities, $200 deposit, smokers OK, no pets. lv msg 770-641-0527

Smyrna/Vinings - GWF, quiet, w/child seeks roommate for nice 2BR/2.5BA duplex, FP, yard, furniture available. No drugs, 1 child/pets OK. $400/month evenings 770-863-9667

Roswell: GWF seeks M/F to share 2/2.5 townhome. Roommate plan, no smoking/pets/drugs. Available 1/15/99. $450/month plus 1/2 utilities. 770-645-7957

Lindbergh area - GWM seeks same to share 3BR/1BA townhouse. W/D, CH/A, hardwoods. $360/month plus 1/2 utilities. Nonsmoker, no drugs. Michael 404-869-0617.

Lesbian housemate to share house in Candler Park. CH/A, porch, yard, W/D, friendly neighborhood, walk to stores. $315/month plus 1/3 utilities, deposit. 404-502-1115.

Grand Midtown 2-Story

Home renovated, 3BR/2.5BA, 710 Penn Ave., $1990/mo. Randall 404-874-6296 R.S.Owen and Co. 404-231-3335.

Duluth GM couple seeks prof M/F for 3B/2b. Quiet neighborhood close to Gwinn mall. $325 + 1/3 util's. Details 678-584-1882

GWF to share 3BR/2BA home in Lilburn. $425/month plus 1/2 utilities. Deposit and References required. Must like dogs. 770-717-7382

Share 3BR/2BA ranch house in Cumming. $500/month plus 1/2 utilities. Smoking and pets OK. Leave message with Sharon 770-889-0717

Lesbian seeking roommate to share 2BR/2BA apt. pool, tennis, gym, etc. Must like cats. Avail immed. $400+1/2 util. 404-786-7871/770-492-9177

City of Decatur

PWF seeks same to share 2BR/1BA condo in city of Decatur. $350/month plus

southern VOICE

Classified Order Form Fax: 404-876-2709, Phone: 404-876-1819 ext. 13

TO PLACE AN AD:
IN PERSON: Bring completed order form with payment to Southern Voice offices (M-F, 9-6 pm) 1095 Zonolite Rd, Atlanta. **BY MAIL:** Mail completed order form with payment to Southern Voice Classifieds, 1095 Zonolite Rd, Atlanta, GA 30306. **BY PHONE:** Call in with completed order form to 404-876-1819 ext. 13. **BY FAX:** Fax completed order form and credit card information to Classifieds 404-876-2709. **BY E-MAIL:** ksargent@sovo.com.
AD POLICY: Southern Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Southern Voice standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: Southern Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

Deadline for ad submission is: MONDAY at 12 NOON

1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY

FREE: Call for guidelines
__ HIV Services & Education
__ Volunteers

INDIVIDUAL RATE $5:
__ Announcements
__ Auditions
__ Employment–Seeking
__ Pets–Free or Lost & Found
__ Roommates

BUSINESS RATE $15:
__ Autos
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__ Employment–Full Time
__ Employment–Part Time
__ Finance
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__ Legal
__ Massage Therapy
__ Merchandise
__ Pets–For Sale, Training
__ Publications
__ Real Estate–For Rent
__ Real Estate–For Sale
__ Travel

Call 404-876-1819 ext. 13 for other categories

2 WRITE YOUR AD
Please print clearly

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Giant Headline ($5/week)–Not to exceed 14 characters and spaces

TEXT: _____

3 TOTAL YOUR COST

INDIVIDUAL RATE ADS
Up to 20 words for $5.00 per week. Additional words at 50¢ each per week.
Up to 20 words: 5.00
Additional words ____ x 50¢: _____
Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)
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Up to 20 words for $15.00 per week. Additional words at $1.00 each per week.
Up to 20 words: 15.00
Additional words ____ x $1.00: _____
Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)
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Total: $_____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City _____ State_____ Zip_____
Phone _____
Check Enclosed ____ Charge to my ❑ AMEX ❑ MC ❑ VISA
Card #_____ Exp.____/____

Classifieds deadline is Monday at noon

deposit, includes utilities, cable, and basic phone. Must be responsible and neat. Smoker OK. No pets (have 2 cats). Available 1/1/99. 404-896-5297. Leave message.

G/W, M/F TO SHARE 3BR/2.5BA Emory apartment. No pets, furnished except for bedroom. $345/month plus 1/3 utilities. Available 1/1/99. 404-373-8024

Midtown/Ansley

GWPM seeks professional, drug-free, nonsmoking roommate to share newly renovated, spacious 1200 plus square foot 2BR/1BA condo. pool, off-street monitored parking, private phone, balcony, laundry. $325-350 plus 1/2 utilities. 404-873-3059.

GWPM seeks GPM/F to share 3BR/2BA fully renovated Victorian in Kirkwood/East Lake. Own bathroom, security system, $450 plus 1/2 utilities, deposit. 404-377-6614.

Buckhead-Northside Parkway area, 2 GWM roommates needed for nice 4BR house on wooded lot. Mature, responsible, nonsmokers are desired. 1st BR is $400/month plus 1/4 utilities & 2nd BR is $350/month plus 1/4 utilities. Phone 404-264-9548. Serious inquiries only.

285/N Peachtree - 4/3 house, heated pool, spa, pool table, sun and fun. Young male preferred, open-minded. 770-458-5661.

Great Decatur Home! Check This Out

GWF to share 3BR/1.5BA home with responsible GWF, nonsmoker. Must like dogs. $350/month plus 1/2 utilities. Susan 404-296-7096.

Gwinnett Co - GWF, professional, seeks same to share house. 3BR/2.5BA, must like pets, W/D, FP, $300/month plus 1/4 utilities. Pgr 770-585-5866 or pgr 770-588-8081

Grant Park - GWM wanted to share 2/1 house w/large fenced yard. Great place near East Village. Ready now, $325/month, $325 deposit. 404-622-4366.

GWF seeks GWF to share 3BR/1BA house. 5 minutes from Lenox. W/D, cable. No pets/smoking. $375/month plus $200 deposit. 770-457-5934.

GF looking for same to share apartment in Midtown. DW, WD, CH/A, $485/month, 1/2 utilities, own phone line. 404-875-7204

2BR furnished apartment, Jan 1, Midtown. Must be clean, professional, like cats. $450+ deposit, utilities included. Call 404-875-6979 after 5PM

Candler Bungalow

Cool, easy to live with GWM seeks same to share charming home on quiet street. Large BR furnished or unfurnished, FP, W/D, CHA, deck, large yard, off-street parking, hardwoods, French doors, hot tub, security system. $675 plus 1/2 expenses, one month deposit. 404-688-5889.

Services

Body Waxing

& Spa Body Treatments (scrub/polish/masque) for the male body. "You deserve to be treated this special!". Ken Pullara, CMT. 404-262-1492. Midtown/Buckhead. MASTERCARD/VISA.

Resume Design/Job Placement

Your resume designed and posted to companies hiring via the Internet. Call now for interview. 404-485-1281

Piano tuning, repairs, rebuilding, restoration. Your piano sounds like new! Lessons by a patient, caring teacher. All ages, levels. 404-378-8310.

Travel

Bahamas Island - Deserted beaches in paradise await you. We make it happen. www.homeinparadise.com & www.bikeparadise.com

It's sun, fun, theme parks, and parties! Discounts on accommodations, theme park, tickets, more! Benefits gay, lesbian, bisexual, community centers http://www.GayDays.com

GA Mountain Getaway

Cozy cabin by Lake Burton: huge fireplace for winter, deck/dock for summer. Hiking, swimming, antiquing, touring...or just loafing! 404-521-0630

Volunteers

For my Masters thesis in Social Work I am conducting an exploratory study of the experience of spirituality and/or religion among lesbians facing cancer. Participants will be asked to describe their journey with cancer in an approximately one hour, one-on-one interview. The identities of all participants will be kept confidential. If you self-identify as a lesbian, have been diagnosed with any type of cancer, and might be willing to participate please contact me, Ashley Varner, at 404-727-5742.

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glances

SIG SAMUELS-DEC. 5TH
You: tall, L.A. Raiders t-shirt. Me: white t-shirt, blue jeans, glasses. You were leaving as I was entering, you turned and waved. Let's do some laundry. ☎9393

BACKSTREET, 12/12/98
You: dark hair, shirtless, blue jeans, two friends. Me: blond, shirtless, silver choker, blue jeans. We danced, you said "I needed to smile". Regret not introducing myself. Try again? ☎9475

HOEDOWNS 12/3
Better late than never...Me: tall, short dark hair, black velvet shirt, too shy to say hi. You: dark hair, new cut, tan hat, great dancer. Wanna meet? ☎9413

ZESTO'S - 11/18
After AIDS walk. You: blue tank top, green shorts, dark hair, gorgeous eyes, with friend. Me: blue shirt, striped shorts, dark hair, with friend. Dinner? ☎9037

FRED:
Enjoyed talking to you after Tom Wolfe signing. Would like to talk more. Please call me. ☎9276

PIEDMONT RD/MONROE DR
11/12/98 8am. Me: blue eyes. You: cute, driving pick-up truck, Florida tag. You asked about dinner. Light changed and I couldn't respond. Answer is yes! ☎9219

11-13 SHARON
You called my mailbox 9080, but I didn't get your number. Please call back! ☎9220

EAGLE 11-8-98
You: tall, sexy man in leather pants that laced up sides. I came over and said hi. You were on a date. Dinner? ☎9210

STING OF SPIDER
Several weeks ago, Blakes, on my mind, sitting across bar, I gave you spider, we passed notes through the bar tender, love to do dinner. ☎9201

LIMBER K-MART 11/8
You: very tall, very cute WM, wearing Marda ID badge. Me: sexy BM, in line behind you. Would love to meet you. Please call. ☎9141

msm

DRUG FREE
Tall, muscular, intelligent, HIV-positive GWM, 35, enjoys weight lifting, classical/Broadway, aerobics, foreign films, home remodeling, pets. Having trouble meeting other guys. N/S only. ☎9539

HAIRY STOCKY GWM
Sought by GWM, 30, 5'10", 165lbs, N/S, not into bars, enjoys movies, reading, dining out. Seeking masculine, hairy GWPM, 25-40, for friendship or possibly more. ☎9535

LOVER WANTED
Healthy GWM, 44, HIV+, 6'3", 186lbs, salt and pepper/blue, mustache and goatee, enjoys music,movies, theater, cooking, seeks GWM, 38-52, for monogamous relationship only. ☎9534

FRIENDS FIRST
Professional GBM, 31, 6', 175lbs, likes gardening, music, and honesty. You: friendly, intelligent, fitness-minded, professional WM, 25-35, with sense of humor, for walks, movies, debates, and dating. ☎9419

PERFECT FOR DATING
Clean-cut, attractive GWPM, 30, 6', 180lbs, swimmer's build, HIV-positive and healthy. Enjoys working out, rollerblading, pets. Seeking HIV-positive guy. ☎9420

ATTRACTIVE & MASCULINE
GBM, late 30s, 5'8", versatile bottom, HIV-positive, seeks GBM, 30-55, versatile top, for friendship/relationship. Graying, bald, beard a plus. Mutual respect for LTR. ☎9421

MASCULINE MAN WANTED
Quality GWPM, 29, 5'11", 135lbs, seeks very masculine, ruggedly handsome, clean-cut, honest, trustworthy, regular guy, D/D-free, N/S. Want a real relationship. ☎9424

OLD-FASHIONED GENTLEMAN
Attractive, monogamous, white, medical professional, 36, 5'11", 190lbs, brown/blue, goatee, HIV-, N/S, who's in shape, sincere, honest, caring, compassionate, outgoing, with morals, seeks similar male for friendship, possibly more. ☎9392

GBM, 29, SEEKS HIV- GWM
Scared, cocooned butterfly seeks a safe, accommodating, loving, well-secured tree, to metamorphosize into flight, via commitment, communication, and love manipulated correctly. ☎9336

LOOKING FOR EQUAL
Attractive GWM, 30, 5'8", 160lbs, red/blue, HIV-positive, great personality, seeks masculine, HIV-positive GW/HM, 25-37, for friendship, dating, good times, maybe LTR. ☎9337

"REAL" MEN ONLY
Independent, intelligent, easygoing, positive GBM, 37, 5'8", 150lbs, top, straight-acting, with straight appearance, seeks same, 35+, race open, for LTR. No fats, femmes, barflies. ☎9355

TIS THE SEASON TO BE...
in love. Attractive GWM, 27, 5'8", 190lbs, stocky build, enjoys shopping, dining, reading, walks, movies, romance. Seeking GWM, up to 50, for friendship/relationship. I'll be your Christmas present. ☎9356

HONEST AND CUTE
Sincere GWPM, 26, 5'9", 140lbs, brown/brown, swimmers build, enjoys talking, walking and gym. Seeking masculine, good-looking SPM, 25-35, built, for friendship, maybe more. ☎9358

MATURE & HEAVYSET...
male wanted by this GBM, 37, 5'7", 125lbs, HIV+, bottom. You must be 40-60, top. ☎9273

STOP HERE...
and take a look. Very good-looking BM (unclaimed prize), 5'9", 155lbs, excellent shape, seeks similar male, talk first, meet next, more later. in shape, masculine only. ☎9352

POS TOP SEEKS...
pos bottom. WM, 34, top, 6'2", 185lbs, masculine, clean-shaven, seeks uninhibited WM, bottom, 5'4"-5'10", clean-shaven, slim and nicely built, for fun, LTR. ☎9540

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Generous, musical, secure, masculine through and through SM, early 50s, 6', +-200lbs, graying/blue, traditional values, many interests, total quality. Seeking similar GWM, 30-49, for committed LTR. ☎9425

AMERICAN DREAM
Friendship/dating first, then... ? You: clean, hot, honest, healthy, slim, romantic, not hairy, boyish bottom, not into bare or drugs, looking for commitment/relationship. ☎9536

ECSTASY
Deliciously caramel-complected, masculine GBM, 29, 200lbs, brown eyes, seeks a GM, for good times. ☎9159

DOMINANT TOP
SWM, brown/blue, 5'6", 130lbs, seeks male, 21-40, for fantasy play. Get into most fettishes. Must be sincere. Novices accepted. Mutual satisfaction. ☎9474

YOUNG MAN WANTED
GWM seeks cute, honest GWM who is willing to relocate. Must be serious about a potential long-term relationship. ☎9471

SEEKS SLIM GWM
If you are clean, sexy, honest, healthy, cute, boyish, not hairy, not into bars or drugs, and looking for a lifetime partner, then call! ☎9473

LONG HARD STROKES NEEDED
HIV-positive GWM, 38, 5'7", 140lbs, buzz-cut blond/blue, bottom, seeks tall GWM top, for fun times. ☎9423

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RISKY BUSINESS
Attractive BiWM, tan, HIV-, student, into music and outdoors. Seeking similar friend, 18-35, for real times. ☎9452

COMMITMENT/LTR
Seeking lifetime partner. Me: GWM, in 20s, honest, fit, attractive, hot, easygoing, stable, warm-hearted, healthy, not hairy, not into drugs/bars. You: the same. ☎9477

ENJOY LIFE
Dynamic, attractive, healthy, romantic GWPM, 35, 6'5", 200lbs, toned, HIV+, versatile bottom, seeks GBM, who is an easygoing, honest gentleman, for friendship, possible LTR. ☎9351

LOOKING FOR SOULMATE
Fun, handsome, artistic, witty GWM, 27, 5'6", 135lbs, brown/brown, likes dogs, camping, movies, life. Seeking similar masculine male, 25-35, decent shape. Long hair a plus! ☎9298

SOMEWHERE OUT THERE
WM 30, 5'11", 175lbs, brown/blue, very handsome, masculine, seeks similar, good-looking, professional WM, who likes dating, traveling, working out and adventure. ☎9291

50-50 LOVE
GBM, HIV positive, healthy, 31, 5'7", 160lbs, seeks serious, fun-loving, down-to-earth guy, who is ready for the real deal, not into clubs, N/S, no games. ☎9222

MOVING TO ATLANTA
GM, 29, 5'5", 125lbs, medium build, brown/brown, who enjoys movies, dancing, swimming, and much more, seeks GWM, 18-32, for LTR only. Not into head games. ☎8362

HONEST & SINCERE
GWPM, 43, 6'1", 220lbs, brown/brown, goatee, enjoys dining out, home life, vacations, piano, gardening. Seeking caring dad, 40-50, with beard. ☎8958

THIS BUD'S FOR YOU
Healthy, hairy, stable, honest SWPM, brown/green, buzz cut, mustache, seeks hairy WM buddy, in Metro area. Suburbs preferred. HIV-negative only. ☎9391

WHERE WILL THIS LEAD?
No preconceived expectations from this healthy, handsome WM, 40, 6'2", 195lbs, brown/green, nice build, HIV+. Seeking similar male for dating and ? ☎9414

CAT-LIKE PERSONALITY
Creative GBM, 26, 6'2", 210lbs, HIV+, loves contemporary jazz, black literature, seeks positive soul to share all of that life as to offer with true friendship. ☎9415

FINE WINE
SWM, 50, 5'7", 145lbs, brown/green, hairy chest, seeks a LTR, with a man who enjoys dining, travel, theater, romantic evenings and candlelight. ☎9416

DOWN UNDER
Aussie gym guy, 40s, 6'2", average build, low-key, caring, seeks a similar male, for friendship, possibly more. ☎9412

LONELY GWM SEEKS LOVE
GWM, 43, 5'8", 260lbs, seeks GW/AM, 21-48, N/S, N/D, who's willing to love a "velveteen rabbit," for friendship/LTR/whatever. Show me that love can make me real. ☎9359

MATE WANTED
Need: 40+ WM in North GA area. I'm in North AL, willing to relocate for love. Seeking LTR with you. Come on! ☎9354

CUTE MODEL
Very cute SWPM, 18, 5'8", blondish-brown/blue, model, in shape, works out, seeks very attractive guy, who is together, for LTR. ☎9274

BLACK/HISPANIC ONLY
Masculine, attractive, white male, seeks masculine black or Hispanic guys, for companionship. ☎9299

TIRED OF BEING ALONE
Unattractive, intelligent GWM, 45, 5'7", 120lbs, hazel eyes, bottom and top, seeks younger, somewhat attractive GWM, 25-30, smooth-chested, bottom and top, for friendship. ☎9302

ROMANTIC/PASSIONATE
Masculine, stocky, athletic-built GWM, 42, 5'8", 175lbs, top, HIV+, brown/green, hairy and healthy. Seeking smooth, muscular SM, for monogamous dating/LTR. ☎9297

FAERIE DHARMA
Very longtime poz hombre seeks wider companion circle amid stiff competition. Sweet on Pulp, Suede, Buzzcocks, swimming, drawing, and Broughton's films. 1953 Gemini, 5'9", 165lbs. ☎9088

BLUBBER LOVER
GBM, 47, 5'9", 160lbs, seeks Atlanta's supersize chubbies, with giant size pectoral breasts, large jelly belly. Seeking all ages/races; 60"-80" waist only. ☎8356

YOUR SMILE...
to begin my day! Fit, attractive, versatile GWPM, 40s, HIV+, N/S, enjoys travel, theater, dining, working out, toys, college sports. Seeking same, for dating/LTR. ☎9078

KISS YOU ALL OVER
Affectionate, eclectic, intuitive GWM, Hiv-, strong intellect/humor, seeks same, N/S, N/Drugs, for loving, monogamous relationship. Artist who enjoys cuddling, travel, gardening. Have moderate cerebral palsy. ☎9300

MASCULINE, ORAL WM
59, exercise, excellent shape and health, affectionate, in search of masculine B/WM, 40-65, looks unimportant, for close friendship. Married or single. Discretion assured. Asheville, NC area. ☎9295

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?
GWM, 50, 5'7", 165lbs, gray hair, glasses. Interests include adventuring, Amstel, Christie, culinary, Dekooning, Disney, dramaturgy, Flaherty, Kimmel, Mah-Jong, nesting, romanticism, spaniels, tourism. Dating towards LTR. ☎9296

STILL SEARCHING
GBM, 31, 5'9", 170lbs, HIV+, healthy, stable, likes music, movies, lunches, fun, pets, gym. Seeking active, creative, cute GWM, 28-35, for a LTR. ☎9292

URGENT
SWM, 18, seeks honest, independent, outgoing, understanding SBM, 18-25, who enjoys shooting pool, movies, playing cards, for friendship first, possibly LTR. Augusta, Wrens, Hephzibah areas preferred. ☎9218

HEART OF MIND
Honest, intelligent, spiritual, passionate, aggressive, HIV+ GWM, 44, 5'11", 175lbs, blond/blue, with varied interests, seeks a sincere lover for friendship. ☎9215

PREP COUNTRY BOY
Healthy, attractive (clean-cut) GWM, 34, 5'8", 165lbs, brown/blue, artist, willing to give best intimate relationship of lifetime to right person. I'm stable, honest, sincere, caring. ☎9216

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msm

HIKING, MOVIES, MUSIC
Got your attention? Also fan of photography. football, cards, traveling. Mentally/physically fit GWPM, 31, 5'8", 150lbs, seeks masculine, caring, fun-loving gentleman. ☎9206

TOP MAN WANTED
Bottom GWM, 39, 5'6", 140lbs, boyish buzz/blue, HIV+, seeks top, tall GWM. Endowed a plus. ☎9207

RENAISSANCE MAN...
with may interests from gym to classical music. Professional GWM, 40s, 5'11", 190lbs, seeks that singular man, for LTR. ☎9208

READY FOR YOU
Top, outgoing, humorous, honest GWM, 40, 5'10", 165lbs, blond/blue, HIV-, in shape, seeks masculine, bottom GWM, 28-40, D/D-free. LTR-oriented. ☎9209

ATLANTA AIRPORT
November 3, 1:30 pm. You: tall WM, salt-n-pepper buzz, blue jeans, black leather knapsack, concourse D. Me: taller BM, dress-shirt, tie, slacks, suspenders, concourse E. Let's talk ☎9221

LET'S BE FRIENDS FIRST
Young HPM, 5'8", 145lbs, good looks, enjoys travel, books, seeks similar, health-oriented W/HM. College a plus. ☎9021

LITTLE OLD COUNTRY BOY
Down-to-earth, outgoing, spiritual BM, 40, model type, enjoys working out, seeks masculine male, with similar interests. ☎9023

SLY PRINCE OF DARKNESS
Affectionate, cute, well-built SWM, 18, 168lbs, black/blue, pretty boy, HIV-negative, seeks similar male, in Atlanta/middle GA area, for fun, possibly more. ☎9024

POSITIVE IN CHARLOTTE
Sincere, energetic, content GWM, 24, 5'3", dark/blue, HIV-positive. Make life what you can. Mountains, beach, home; I'll not complain. All races beautiful. ☎9138

EAST METRO
Monogamous, stable, healthy, HIV-negative WPM, seeks similar, honest, fit WM, medium/large build. Husky, hairy, mature preferred. No games. ☎9144

COLD NIGHTS
Stay warm, happy, protected and loved by a masculine GWPM, 51, 5'7", 145lbs. I like dogs, tennis, travel, arts, travel and life. ☎9163

NO PRETENSE HERE!
Masculine, handsome, versatile, romantic GWPC male, 41, 6'1", 175lbs, N/S, healthy, HIV+, enjoys outdoors, movies, exercise and sports. Seeking similar, 30-45, for dating, LTR. ☎9164

RELOCATE TO CHICAGO?
Attractive GWM, 45, 5'6", 142lbs, seeks masculine, hairy GWM, 40-50, for LTR. Into affection, movies, good home life, not bars. Will help relocate, N/S only. ☎8897

LET'S GET SERIOUS
GBM, 37, HIV+, 5'10", 140lbs, brown/hazel, light complexion, seeks GBM, 30-42, similar build, for LTR ☎9161

WSW

BLUNT!
Married to my career, but we can have an affair. Attractive BF, 27, seeks sexy GF, for impulsive fun. Race unimportant. ☎9537

FEMININE FRIENDS
Femme, 28, seeks intelligent, feminine women, who enjoys socializing and meeting new people; for friendship. ☎9451

LADIES FIRST
Cute GWF, 31, seeks GWPF, 31-45. Are you looking for stable, honest, good-natured, creative friend? I need a loving, caring, responsible companion for LTR. N/D, no games, no Bis. ☎9476

BASKETBALL PARTNER
Very attractive, feminine GBF, 25, 5'8", 156lbs, brown complexion, seeks an attractive, tall female, 20-30, into basketball and movies, for friendship first. Atlanta area preferred. ☎9411

DELIGHTFUL & INTELLIGENT
Petite, funny, professional WF, 30s, first time out, enjoys traveling, dancing, reading, hiking, movies. Seeking caring, feminine, intelligent female, N/S, age unimportant. Let's be happy together. ☎9357

FIRST TIME AD
SBF, 29, 5'3", 155lbs, currently 7 months pregnant, seeks honest, sincere SF, who is considering parenthood, for friendship and companionship. ☎9275

YOU'RE NOT FROM HERE,
are you? Adventurous, attractive, intelligent, femme GWPF, enjoys conversation, laughter, movies, outdoors, connection. Seeking fit, sophisticated, well-read, honest femme, 30s, with grace and appetite for humor. ☎9301

SELF-ASSURED
SBPF, 32, slim, attractive, feminine, friendly, seeks an intelligent, unattached, trim SF, 24-37, no dependents, for friendship, possible LTR. ☎9514

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES
Stable, creative, cute, funny GWF, 29, medium build, desires honest GBF, 28-35, N/S, N/D, for laughter, movies, dinners, and other possibilities. ☎9294

SLOW AND EASY
Unique GBF, tall, slim, down-to-earth, enjoys reading, poetry, romance. Seeking GF, no games, who is interested in quality. ☎9224

BLUE—EYED CUTIE
Intelligent, honest, college-educated BiWF, loves movies, sports, animals, nice walks. You: GWF, 27-35, honest, intelligent, stable, attractive, and happy. ☎9212

NEW TO ATLANTA
GWPF, 39, soft butch, seeks friendship and fun, likes reading, movies, conversation, outdoors, passion, and spontaneity, seeks GWF, 30-something, femme a must. ☎9145

NEW GEORGIA PEACH
Very attractive, feminine GBPF, 28, 5'5", 125lbs, light complexion, hazel eyes, seeks very attractive, slim GBPF, 27+, 5'5"+. Friendship, possibly more. N/S. Serious, feminine, attractive only, please. ☎9017

WANTED: BEST FRIEND:
To (perhaps) fall in love with. GWPF, 32, petite, attractive femme, stable, seeks similar GWPF, not butch, who wants to grow. ☎9160

CHARMED ONE
GWF seeks you! Fate is calling you to your soulmate. It's time to answer! Genuine, faithful, fun-loving, romantic soul. Let's begin our destiny together. ☎9472

WHY BE NORMAL?
Instead seek the best, highest life has to offer. Health/life-conscious GWF, 38, seeks to surround self with same. Please be spiritual, healthy, independent, fit, aware. ☎9422

EBONY AMBROSIA
Unique, attractive, feminine GBF, 26, 5'1", medium build, pretty smile, dread locks, seeks attractive, feminine GBF, to share the intimacy of ambrosia. ☎9417

SEARCHING FOR SOULMATE
Feminine GWF, 37, seeks same, for my long-lost soulmate. Where are you? I've been waiting. I know you're out there, but I can't seem to find you. ☎9335

LOOKING FOR SOULMATE
Cute GWF, 40, 5'6", in good shape, very soft butch, with tattoos, seeks LTR with honest, caring woman, who's young-at-heart. ☎9353

STIRRING THINGS UP
Spiritually grounded, emotionally balanced, exciting, culturally diverse, soft-femme GBF, 45, seeks positive, classic romantic, independent, intelligent female, 42-63, N/S, H/W proportionate. ☎9303

6 FLAGS, LITHIA, DOUGLASVILLE
Cute GWF looking for same. Is there anyone who lives on the wild side, looking for friendship first, then what comes naturally between two women. ☎9305

NOT SEEKING COMMITMENT
Adventurous map maker of life, seeks those special few who forge their own path. I seek life-long open friendship, both platonic and intimate. ☎9162

LIKE MINDS
GWF seeking friend of like mind and interest. Establishing lasting friendship is the goal. Do you want to walk together in this common goal? Call me! ☎9293

OUT-OF-TOWN ROMANCE
Slim, attractive DWF, late 30s, N/S, seeks SF, who many visit the North Florida area, for friendship, possibly more. ☎9271

YOU'RE MISSING THIS
Gently aggressive, passionate kisser wants to give you a work out. Let's sweat, soar, and laugh. Can you take it? Do you really want this? ☎9217

BOND
Friends describe me as Bette Midler meets Sean Connery. You would be a beautiful, intelligent, kind, spiritual, adventurous Bond-girl, ready to shake and stir. ☎9214

KNIGHT SEEKS PRINCESS
Long-haired, soft butch, with head core attitude, has a big heart for the right person. Seeking passive, intelligent, attractive, feminine GF, for friendship, and more. No games. ☎9205

MY CINDERELLA
Hello ladies. I'm a GBF stud, looking for an independent, self-sufficient, femme lesbian, 28-36, friendship first, to fit my glass slipper. Serious inquires only. ☎9204

NATTY DREAD
Attractive GBF, seeks attractive femme, to share emotions, time and mind. I want you to be my priority. ☎9022

BE YOURSELF
Fun, caring, loving, outgoing BF, enjoys movies, conversation, dining out, seeks BF, with similar interests, who can be herself, for friendship. Age/size unimportant. ☎9097

FOLLOW YOUR HEART
Attractive, feminine GWPF, 40s, 5'4", 125lbs, wnter, enjoys cultural activities, intimacy. Seeking that special someone: loving, caring, slim, aggressive femme, any race. ☎9139

A WOMAN FOR ALL SEASONS
GWPF, 40s, seeks intelligent, educated, kind soul, with a wonderful laugh. Let's be naughty and nice. I'll make you breakfast. N/S, N/D. Atlanta area preferred. ☎9140

BEAUTIFUL SOUL
Degreed, feminine, plus-sized, attractive GWF, 41, homeowner, loves life, seeks feminine, degreed, attractive GWF, 30-40, for friendship, more. ☎9143

YOUNG AND FEMININE
BiWF, 19, seeks an attractive GF, pet lover, smoker, for friendship, possible relationship. ☎9157

just friends

JUST FRIENDS
GWM, 20s, seeks GWM, similar age, who enjoys music, movies, dining out, grilling beach, mountains, for friendship only. ☎9418

REAL PEOPLE
Open-minded GF, 36, loves animals, outdoors, motorcycles, laughing, and much more. seeks friends in the Atlanta area. Must be sincere and have good sense of humor. ☎9394

HIKING
GF is looking for other lesbians, 50ish, to go hiking, but at a moderate pace. ☎9304

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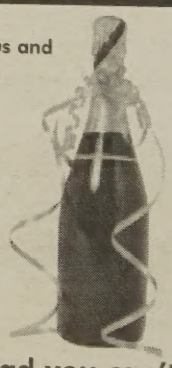
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My Stars

by CHARLENE LICHTENSTEIN

December 24-30, 1998

The jolly Sun enters Capricorn this week heralding in a ho ho ho to any holiday festivities. Have you been naughty or nice, kids? Will you find a lump of coal or sugar in your stocking? For some of us, any old bulge is a cause for rejoicing. Happy holiday to all. May all your Christmases be pink.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
Inspirational Sun in professional Capricorn makes you an exemplary corporate admiral so set your course, ready your torpedoes and sink a destroyer or two. Don't get distracted. There will be plenty of time next month to relax with your sailor at the pier.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
Proud Bulls benefit from an exotic holiday. If budgets have already been spent on holiday chazerei, try escaping the mundane a bit closer to home. Who knows what wild life is lurking at the corner bar?

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Sun in repressed Capricorn casts a strobe into your intimate fears. But if lying on the couch doesn't produce psychological results, use this energy for more physical pursuits. Gay Twins give new meaning to the term "overstuffed chair." Pack the mistletoe.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Now with the optimistic Sun in practical Capricorn, pink Crabs find the harmonic balance they need in a relationship. Balance is the operative word here, cousin; life is not without its compromises. Alas, with every Christmas goodie comes a price tag.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)
Use this time to clear off your desk and tie up loose ends at work. Posing as Bob Cratchett is not without its rewards. Love lurks in every cubicle now, and who knows who will be sitting on the xerox machine at the next office party?

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)
Ring those party bells, you are the leader of the pride parade—or is the conga line? For quieter types, this is the time of year to unleash your gay muse and create something fabulously festive for the new year. Is it bigger than an elf?

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)
Gay Libras find a place at the table for any relative who needs a place to park this holiday. You are anxious to draw the milk of human kindness. Give it a sip and if it's curdled, cut your losses and seek more affirming company. Hey, at least you gave it a try.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)
Proud Scorps will be tempted to offer their opinion whether requested or not. Thankfully this is a politically adept placement, and anything you say will not be held against you. Choose something other than words to be held against you. Ho ho ho.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)
Mercenary gay Archers are less into mergers and more into acquisitions when Sun enters practical Capricorn. They say expensive things come in small holiday packages. In that case, either keep your eye on the bottom line or seek a well endowed benefactor.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)
Feisty Sun in your own sign magnifies your attributes. Get out there and show the world what you can do. If that doesn't get the old juices going, "enhance" your appearance with a fashion makeover. Red and green may be festive colors, but not for pants.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)
Aqueerians benefit from various forms of relaxation, whether it's yoga, meditation or even a religious retreat. If you're too rarin' to go to mellow out, roll up your sleeves and volunteer for a good gay cause. Pile up the karmic points before 1999.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)
Pink Fish either turn the tide on the group dynamic or are swept up by it. You feel comfortable wherever you hang your hat. That's great unless your hat is hanging in the reelect Jesse Helms campaign headquarters. Then we'll need to talk, sweetheart.

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LONG TERM

My name is Otis, & I'm a 25 yr. old, gay, black male. I'm a college graduate & a professional. I'm 5'10" tall, 170 lbs., &I enjoy outdoor activities such as rollerblading & jogging, & walks in the park. I also enjoy art, movies, & theater. I'm a loving guy & have a great sense of humor. I'm not into the club scene, the head games, or the one-night stands. If you're interested, you can leave a message. ***Box 2548.***

This is Keith. I find it pretty hard to try to describe myself in a minute, but I'll try to go fast. I'm a 33 yr. old, straight acting, white collar professional. I'm well-educated, 5'10" tall, 165 lbs., with brown hair & brown eyes. I have a beard & mustache & I'm fairly attractive. I like kind of the normal things. I'm looking for an average person who's well-educated & intelligent like myself. If you're interested & you would like to know more, please box me back. ***Box 1890.***

This is Jim. I'm 6'3" tall, 185 lbs., slim, with medium length, blondish brown hair, goatee, hazel eyes, earrings, & I'm alternative in style. That's it. ***Box 1337.***

I'm 5'10" tall, 160 lbs., with black hair & brown eyes. I'm a very clean-cut, attractive, African-American guy. I enjoy sports, movies, intelligent companionship, & laughter. If you're interested in sharing in all of the above, leave me a message. ***Box 2670.***

I'm a very nice looking, slim, single, white male. I'm 5'11" tall, 150 lbs., with brown hair, brown eyes, mustache, healthy, & definitely disease & drug-free. I'm an experienced bi seeking the same. You must be slim & smooth like me, well-endowed like me, definitely disease & drug-free & not too experienced. I'm definitely not looking for a one-night stand. I'm hoping for a long term friendship & lots of good fun & experimentation. So, If you're interested, & as I said, you're fairly attractive & definitely disease & drug-free, healthy, & interested in a long term friendship, please give me a shout. ***Box 1030.***

MAN LINE®

404 302-0555

enter code 152

I'm a white male. I stand 5'11" tall, have dark brown hair, mustache, hazel eyes, & a medium build at 180 lbs. I have a very hairy chest & stomach. I have nice, muscular legs. I'm looking for someone to love me for the rest of my life. I'm trying this line because I don't do the bars. I don't go out cruising in the streets, & I'm really looking for someone who's spiritually, mentally, emotionally, & physically in shape. I'm one of the most kind, caring, loving, & generous guys in the whole world & I'm looking for a very high quality person. ***Box 2616.***

I'm a 19 yr. old, white male living in the Buckhead area. I'm 5'11" tall, with dark blond hair & blue/green eyes. I'm into the outdoors. I love camping, fishing, white water rafting, & much more. I also enjoy quiet evenings, movies, & going to dinner. I'm looking for another white male under 25 yrs. old. I'd like to start off as friends & see how it goes from there. If this sounds good, hit me back. ***Box 1403.***

CASUAL

This is a bottom brother, very attractive, low-key, & private. I'm 5'10" tall, 165 lbs., light skinned, dark eyes, smooth body, full lips. Looking for a top brother with a muscular, toned body. I'm looking for a brother who's very attractive & low-key. If you want to hook up & kick it, get back to me. ***Box 2473.***

I'm a masculine, attractive, sexy, black male. I'm 5'8" tall, 157 lbs., late 30's, in very good shape, with a toned, athletic body. I'm well-endowed & passionate. I'm looking for hot, masculine, mainstream, type guy who's into lots of body contact, lots of hot, man-to-man fun. ***Box 1073.***

Dark haired boy, 6'3" tall, 185 lbs., tall, masculine, athletic, hung like a horse. I'm a bi top. I'd like to hook up with other hard bodied, masculine, athletic dudes in their 20's to 30's. Give me a call guys. ***Box 3426.***

ALTERNATIVE

This is Mike. I'm a 36 yr. old, white male with brown hair & blue eyes. I'm 5'11" tall, 210 lbs., slim, great chest, well-defined, muscular. I'm looking for a white male who's physically attractive, masculine, & looking to be a bottom. I want to try being a top. Interested getting together & having a good time. If you're interested, hit me back. ***Box 1087.***

I'm a very hot, good looking, white guy. I'm 5'11" tall, 155 lbs., &I work out & have a swimmer's build, a nice tight, chiseled body. I'm versatile & like just about anything. I'm looking for one or two guys for hot times. If you're interested, drop me a message. ***Box 2363.***

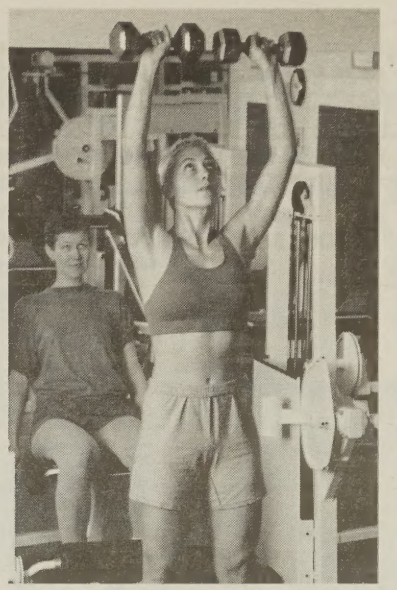
I'm a 38 yr. old, bi, white male. I'm 5'11" tall, 175 lbs., with dark hair, mustache. I'm moderately hairy & in pretty good shape. I'm looking for another straight or bi, white guy under 35 yrs. old. If you're in good shape, nice looking, & into safe encounters, why don't you get back to me. ***Box 1290.***

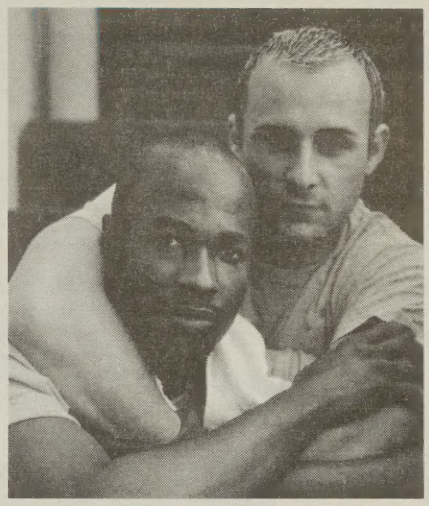
I'm a 36 yr. old, 5'11" tall, 190 lb., single, white male with blond hair, blue eyes, clean-shaven, preppy looking. I'm pretty much smooth all over, some hair on my legs. I'm seeking a male over 45 yrs. old, a top, for some great times. Please be disease & drug-free. ***Box 2046.***

This ad is for men into big, bear types. I'm 5'10" tall, around 300 lbs., big, beefy bear, furry front & back, salt & pepper hair, salt & pepper beard, close cut, 42 yrs. old. I'm into height/weight proportionate guys who like to have adventurous, safe times. If this is something you could get into, & you like big, beefy guys with big bellies, give me a call. Look forward to talking with you. ***Box 2910.***

This is Jim. I'm 6'3" tall, 185 lbs., slim, with medium length, blondish brown hair, goatee, hazel eyes, earrings, & I'm alternative in style. That's it. ***Box 1337.***

Unexpected & Unusual





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